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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-196
Wednesday
13 October 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO Liaison, Gaza Committee Members Disclosed

TA1210185993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] A PLO Executive Committee member close to Yasir 'Arafat revealed to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem the names of the Palestinian members in the liaison and Gaza-Jericho committees, which will convene tomorrow in Cairo and Taba. The names are as follows:

The liaison committee: Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], chairman. The committee members: Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], Furayh Abu- Middayn, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Sa'id Kamal, and Ghassan al-Khatib.

The Gaza-Jericho committee: Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman. The committee members: Nizar 'Ammar, Salih Ra'fat, Major General Fakhri Shaqqurah, Colonel Nasir Yusuf, Dr. Ahmad al-Khalidi, Amin al-Hindi, and Dr. Rami 'Abd-al-Hadi. Moreover, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi has been appointed adviser to all the Palestinian negotiating committees.

Sources in the Ministry of Police disclosed to our correspondent Kayyid Zahir that some guards of Faysal al-Husayni and the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem have been provided with personal weapons in anticipation of any potential attack against al-Husayni or the delegation's headquarters.

Further on Team Delegates

JN1210135793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Today in Tunis the PLO chose its representatives to the liaison and coordination committees to discuss self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. One of the committees will meet in Cairo and the other will meet in Tabah tomorrow.

The Palestinian side of the liaison committee is comprised of Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, as chairman; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh as deputy chairman; and Mamduh Nawfal, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Ghassan al-Khatib, and Furayh Abu-Middayn as members.

The Palestinian side of the coordination committee is comprised of Dr. Nabil Sha'th as chairman; and Salih Ra'fat, Nasir Yusuf, Major General Fakhri Shaqqurah, Amin al-Hunaydi, Nizar 'Ammar, Ahmad al-Khalidi, and Hasan 'Asfur as members.

Israel-PLO Liaison Committee Issues Joint Statement

TA1310141193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The Israel-PLO liaison committee has ended its session in Cairo after deciding to reconvene in Cairo every two or three weeks and, if necessary, to appoint subcommittees to discuss specific issues. Among other things, it was decided to establish an economic affairs committee at the ministerial level.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from Cairo that these details are included in a joint statement issued following the committee's session, which was headed by Shim'on Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. The statement also says that the Gaza-Jericho affairs committee convening in Tabah will convene on an ongoing basis. The deportee and detainee issues, raised by the PLO today, will be discussed by the Tabah committee.

Israel's Beilin on 'Family Reunion' Quotas

TA1210170493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by Eldad Beck, special correspondent in Tunis]

[Text] Addressing the refugee committee convening in Tunis today, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin stressed two new points. The first point was that Israel has amended the criteria governing family reunion. As of now, the annual quota will stand at about 2,000 cases, that is about 5,000 persons who will be eligible for family reunion permits. This point refers mainly to marriages.

Beilin further announced Israel's readiness to show flexibility on the matter of prisoner release and the return of additional deportees. This flexibility will be reflected in the negotiations conducted in the framework of various committees.

The deputy foreign minister, who is slated to meet with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, will stress to him the importance of adherence to timetables in the various negotiating committees, because if we do not adhere to the timetables, Yosi Beilin says, opponents of the agreement will receive ample grounds to pursue their activities.

The deputy foreign minister will also raise the issue of normalization with the Arab world.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 12 October carries a recorded report from Tunis by Arye Gus about the meeting of the multilateral committee on refugees. According to Gus, "Ilyas Sanbar, head of the Palestinian delegation, talked about a political solution rather than humanitarian aspects." Sanbar said in English: "The numbers of the Palestinians in exile—I mean, in camps and in exile—is around half of the Palestinian people, which is around 3 million persons. We refuse any resettlement policy anywhere. This is our position of principle. It hasn't changed and it won't change. Now, for the details that are going to come up, you'll wait for some days and I'll comment and I'll give a press conference at the end of this meeting."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 12 October adds that "the head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks on refugees in Tunis told IDF Radio that the reports that the PLO has agreed to settle 1948 refugees in Arab countries are totally untrue."]

Beilin Meets With 'Arafat in Tunis on Accord

TA1310061393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met last night in Tunis with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The two agreed that details of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement should be worked out as quickly as possibly. Qol Yisra'el's correspondent in Tunis says that in their meeting, Beilin brought up Israel's position regarding Palestinian terrorism and stressed the need for the lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

[Begin Beilin recording] It was the (?nicest) meeting with Chairman 'Arafat. It was very interesting for me to understand much better some of the issues on the Palestinian side. I think that I clarified to him the problems, the inhibitions on our side too. We talked most of the meeting about the psychological barriers—some of them were demolished, not all of them—and the ability of each side to help sometimes the other, in order to convince the public opinion, that is one of the challenges that are in front of us. We covered a lot of subjects, but there was no specific message that I can refer to or a specific decision which was made here in this meeting. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Jerusalem Talks With Israel's Shahal

JN1110134293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of advisory council to PLO-Israel peace talks, by radio correspondent 'Umar Zaydani on 11 October 93, carried within the "With the Midday Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Last night, you met with Police Minister Moshe Shahal. Would you tell us about the topics discussed during this meeting?

[Al-Husayni] This was a preliminary meeting to define dimensions and to agree on the issues related to Jerusalem that would be discussed. Among the issues discussed were the closure of Jerusalem and the methods of dealing with the Palestinians in a way that will not harm the interests of the Palestinians commuting to and from Jerusalem. Palestinian ties to Jerusalem are not only political; they are also social and economic. Hence, maintaining current procedures regarding access to Jerusalem harms Palestinian interests. Therefore, we discussed ways and means to end this problem.

[Zaydani] Was there an agreement on certain facilities?

[Al-Husayni] The aim of the objective was not to come out with [four-second break in transmission] that cover this stage.

[Zaydani] Did you discuss political issues during the meeting?

[Al-Husayni] I can say that the agreement was to discuss issues related to Jerusalem, not to the future of Jerusalem. However, the issues related to the future relations that should be discussed at the beginning of the third year [of self-rule] will be discussed later. We now discuss the problems facing us at the present time.

[Zaydani] You said this was the first meeting, and of course, there will be other meetings. Will you form committees to discuss this issue?

[Al-Husayni] So far, we have not discussed the formation of committees. I am confident, however, that when we get to issues which neither I nor the minister can deal with due to their nature and their details and because they need more knowledge, such issues would be discussed by other sides, such as committees.

[Zaydani] Can we say that the issue of setting up Palestinian police was discussed with Police Minister Moshe Shahal?

[Al-Husayni] This issue was discussed in general. There was no agreement on discussing such a topic at this meeting. I believe that the police issue will be discussed during the meetings to be held in Cairo and Tabah.

[Zaydani] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, [Jerusalem Mayor] Teddy Kollek supports, in his statements to the press today, giving facilities with regard to the security closure of Jerusalem. What is the Minister Shahal's stand?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the two sides should discuss methods of dealing with this issue. What concerns him is the security aspect, and therefore, they are ready to discuss any possible measures. We look at this issue with great seriousness, and we do not believe there should be security measures that would have other goals.

[Zaydani] My last question Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Over the past months, you exerted great efforts to convince the Palestinians to accept the agreement between Israel and the PLO. A report this morning said that Hamas does not object to becoming a part of the self-rule and its institutions.

[Al-Husayni] I have not read such a report yet. If it is correct it will be a wise and sound step. If somebody believes there are shortcomings in the agreement, he could work to correct them and to give momentum to the process by dealing with the issue from inside [the Palestinian institutions] not from outside.

[Zaydani] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, thank you very much.

[Al-Husayn] You are welcome.

Palestinian Affairs

Further on PLO Central Council Proceedings

'Strict Security Precautions' Taken

NC1010203693 London MBC Television in Arabic 1832 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Mahir Shalabi report from Tunis]

[Text] The Tunisian authorities have taken strict security precautions as the PLO Central Council meetings open tonight with 85 members attending, along with over 40 others who came from the occupied territories to participate in the meetings.

The Council, which has announced that this meeting will be the last one held outside Palestine, will discuss repercussions of the Israeli-Palestinian accord and the course of action in the upcoming stage. The Council is expected to vote with a clear majority in favor of the Israeli-Palestinian accord that was signed in Washington on 13 September.

[Begin recording] [Shalabi] Mr. President [Yasir 'Arafat], the Central Council meetings will begin tonight. What do you expect from this meeting?

['Arafat] I expect Palestinian democracy to be evident in all its most splendid meanings as usual and that members will express their views of this accord freely—for or against. Undoubtedly, I cannot make a statement that would affect the outcome of the debate. [end recording]

[PLO] Executive Committee member Hakam Bal'awi accused Iran of backing dissident Palestinian groups, such as the Abu-Nidal group, in an attempt to abort the peace process.

[Begin Bal'awi recording] I know that we have reliable and verified information that there are attempts by various factions, financed specifically by Iran, to assassinate Palestinian leaders. We are following this issue with extreme concern. As part of preventive security, we deal with all such attempts that cannot succeed because the Palestinian people's will is stronger than all...[sentence incomplete as received] [end recording]

A democratic and positive atmosphere prevails in the circles of the conferees, the Council members and the observers, and stringent security measures are being implemented because of terrorist intentions by some Iranian-backed factions.

'Fatah Movement' Warns Against Endorsement

JN1010180093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] In a statement issued in Damascus today, the Fatah Movement has warned the [Palestinian] conferees in Tunis against endorsing the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the Israeli-PLO mutual recognition document. The statement affirmed that the Palestine question is not the property of anybody or faction to dispose of. Any outcome of the Tunis meeting will be null and void and will not commit our people to anything, the statement added.

Concluding its statement, the Movement appreciated the national position taken by many PLO Central Council members who boycotted this meeting.

PPSF, PLF Join Boycott

JN1010171693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] and the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] have announced their boycott of the PLO Central Council's meeting, which Yasir 'Arafat called for in Tunis today. They described this meeting as illegitimate and illegal in the absence of Council Chairman 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and his deputy Taysir Qub'ah, who are boycotting the meeting.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PPSF, the PLF, and a large number of independent personalities are boycotting this meeting.

In a statement today, the PPSF and PLF commands said that the members of the current PLO Central Council were forged, and that new people have been introduced into the council. These people are not council members, and 'Arafat does not have the right to bring them into the council, the statement adds.

The statement continues: The council is not entitled to discuss or endorse the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement because 'Arafat and his team, who signed this agreement, breached all agreed Palestinian national decisions and constant principles. 'Arafat and his team are forging the people's will and institutions in an attempt to legitimatize the agreement they signed with Israel, the statement adds.

'Arafat Remarks at Meeting Cited

NC1110071193 Paris AFP in English 2356 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, Oct 10 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat defended his recourse to secret talks with Israel when he opened Sunday a key meeting of the organisation's mini-parliament-in-exile called to ratify the autonomy deal with Israel.

Arafat described the meeting as "important and decisive" and said delegates would be called upon to "ratify the declaration of principles signed on September 13 in Washington".

He told members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Central Council (PLOCC), that Palestinians were forced to use "other channels to break the deadlock" in which the bilateral peace talks in Washington had become mired.

Singled out for special thanks was Ahmad Quray', the main architect of the secret negotiations in Oslo which led to the breakthrough.

'Arafat said the Israel-PLO autonomy accord under which the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho will become self-ruling had enabled Palestinians to obtain more than Israel had offered in the bilateral negotiations.

The PLO leader also paid a warm tribute to Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian delegation at the Washington peace talks, despite the fact that al-Shafi has distanced himself from the Israel-PLO accord and criticised 'Arafat's "personal power".

'Abd-al-Shafi was present along with Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesman of the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks.

A number of top Palestine Liberation Organisation officials boycotted the meeting in protest at the accord, due to be implemented on Wednesday.

Of the 107 PLOCC members, 84 were present Sunday and four more were due to join the meeting on Monday.

The three-day meeting opened Sunday evening in the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) school in the Tunisian capital, with delegates expected to approve the autonomy deal.

Earlier, opponents of the autonomy accord lobbied members of the council to persuade them not to ratify the deal, Palestinian sources said.

Around 300 people attended the opening of the council meeting including delegates from the occupied territories with observer status, and observers, attended the opening, watched by a number of journalists, many of them Israelis. [sentence as received]

Among those present at the meeting, chaired by Salim al-Za'nun, were most of the official members of the PLO's decision-making Executive Committee, including Shafiq al-Hut and Mahmud Isma'il, who tendered their resignations from the committee in protest at the autonomy accord.

Missing at the roll call were the head and deputy head of the full parliament-in-exile, the Palestine National Council, respectively Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayih, who has resigned, and Taysir Qubba'ah.

Qubba'ah should have co-chaired Sunday's meeting together with al-Za'nun, but he is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a PLO faction which rejects the accord.

Council Approves Self-Rule Accord

JN1210060693 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The PLO Central Council has ratified the peace deal with Israel. It appointed Yasir 'Arafat head of the authority to run the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PLO chairman told a news conference early today the accord signed with Israel on self-rule in the occupied territories was approved by 63 votes to 8, with 11 members either abstaining or absent.

The meeting also adopted a resolution to set up a Palestinian national authority led by Mr. 'Arafat to which Israel will transfer authority in the West Bank and Gaza within two months. The authority will be appointed by the PLO Executive Committee. It will have members from inside the occupied territories and from among exiled Palestinians.

The Central Council also approved the representatives to a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee that will meet in Cairo tomorrow to oversee the negotiations.

Mr. 'Arafat, who is to meet Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in Tunis today, said further meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin were possible if needed. The PLO leader said he hoped to move to the occupied territories early next January.

National Authority Established

LD1210181793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinian Central Council concluded its proceedings in the early ours of Tuesday. The proceedings, which lasted for two days in Tunis and which were attended by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, were concluded with the approval of the Declaration of Principles Accord between the PLO and the government of Israel, signed in Washington on 13 September.

The accord obtained a majority of 63 votes to eight, and nine abstentions. Brother President Abu-'Ammar put forward a proposal for the council to examine and vote on. The Palestinian leadership had already examined this proposal at meetings it held before the convening of the council, which discussed the proposal before approving it and adopting the following formula:

The Palestinian Central Council approves the establishment of a Palestinian National Authority council that will be formed from inside and outside the occupied territories. The Executive Committee will be the point of reference for the Palestinian National Authority Council, which will be headed by brother president Abu-'Ammar.

The proposal was approved by 68 votes to three, and one abstention.

Hani al-Hasan Removed from Council

NC1110101193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0949 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 11 Oct (MENA)—The Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, the largest group in the PLO, has decided to remove committee member Hani al-Hasan from the Palestinian Central Council [PCC], where he represented it and has replaced him with Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO ambassador in Tunis and a committee member.

The committee also decided to appoint PLO ambassador in Jordan Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim as its representative in the PCC instead of Abu-al-Mundhir (Subhi Abu-Karsh), the PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, who is not attending the committee meetings because of illness.

Hani al-Hasan had declared his opposition to the agreement on principle and demanded the removal of the PLO leadership. He has also boycotted Fatah's Central Committee meetings. 'Arafat insisted on his removal as the Fatah representative in the PCC.

Hani al-Hasan returned to Tunis from Amman the day before yesterday and was told of the decision to remove him from the PCC.

Political Department To Stay in Tunis

JN1210143893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by Muhammad Kurayshan from Tunis]

[Text] As expected, late last night the PLO Central Council ratified the Palestinian-Israeli accord signed in Washington last month. The accord was approved by a vote of 63 to 8. Eleven abstained or did not attend.

Support was strong for the Palestinian authority that will be set up in two months. Sixty-eight members voted for Yasir 'Arafat to head this authority, while three voted against him, and one abstained. At the conclusion of the meeting early this morning, 'Arafat express his satisfaction: The support for the Gaza-Jericho accord was beyond his personal expectation.

It has also been decided that Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will head the liaison committee with Israel, and that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh will be his deputy. It has also been decided that Dr. Nabil Sha'th will head the Gaza-Jericho committee that will meet in Tabah on 13 October.

It seems the Palestinian leadership has decided to maintain the PLO Political Department, headed by Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, in its present headquarters in the Tunisian capital, following reports that it would be moved to Amman or Cairo.

Abu-Sharif on Agenda Issues

JN1010121293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Yitzhaq Halevi in Tunis carried within "With the Midday Events"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Halevi] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Mr. Yasir 'Arafat: My first question has to do with the PLO Central Council meetings. Can you tell us what the issues on the agenda are and will all the members attend?

[Abu-Sharif] The agenda of the PLO Central Council has a basic issue, which is to discuss the agreement signed in Washington between the Israeli Government and the PLO leadership. The meeting is very important, because it is a link between the Executive Committee and its decisions and the Palestine National Council and its approval of the decisions made by the executive body. Therefore, we expect the meeting to be hot in terms of the debate that will take place between those who are for and those who are against the agreement. There are 107 members of this council. We do not know so far how many members will attend. However, it is certain that some of them will boycott this meeting, especially representatives of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], who have spelled out a clear, public attitude toward the agreement and the meeting. The meeting will be attended by some observers who are invited from inside and outside the occupied territories, who will contribute to the debate but not to the voting.

[Halevi] The Central Committee of Fatah, the largest faction of the PLO, has ended its meetings which began last Thursday. What were the decisions made at these meetings?

[Abu-Sharif] It is natural for President 'Arafat to meet with the leadership of the largest faction in the Palestinian arena, which is led by 'Arafat himself. This happens before any meeting of the PLO to study the latest developments and adopt appropriate decisions. Afterward, he goes to the meetings of the PLO and its institutions.

[Halevi] We heard that the PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting before the meeting... '[Abu-Sharif interrupting] This is also something normal. The Executive Committee meets to discuss the final touches on the report that President Yasir 'Arafat, in his capacity as the Executive Committee chairman, will present to the Central Council on latest political developments. At this meeting, it is natural for President Yasir 'Arafat to brief the Central Council on his meeting and the details of his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Halevi] Finally, do you think that the Rabin-'Arafat meeting in Cairo last Wednesday helped to activate the declaration of principles agreement?

[Abu-Sharif] Allow me to repeat what President Yasir 'Arafat said after this meeting. He said the meeting was positive and fruitful. We believe that the agreement on the formation of the Liaison Committee, the committee on implementation of the declaration of principles, and the Jerusalem Committee stands as a very positive result. Fixing the venue and date of the meetings also stands as a very good result. This is evidence of the sincerity of intentions of the two parties and their determination to work together to make peace.

'Urayqat on Council Decisions

JN1210131593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, in Tunis, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio on 10 October, from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] The PLO Central Council has approved the establishment of a national Palestinian authority to assume power during the interim phase, until elections are held. The nature of the authority has not been specified. This has been left for the PLO Executive Committee to decide. Members of this authority will be chosen from PLO Executive Committee and the occupied territories. However, no names have been specified. Qualifications will be the primary criteria for the selection of members.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib, there are fears that the Palestinian leadership may choose only few personalities from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, if any, as members of the national authority and the institutions that will be created.

['Urayqat] When the mutual recognition took place, the PLO became a recognized international party. I believe that the term inside and outside the occupied territories does not exist in the political dictionary anymore. The Palestinian people are one people. If anything has been consolidated recently, it must be the unity of the Palestinian people. As I said, qualifications will be the main criteria for selections in the interim phase, which will continue until the elections are held. Afterward, general elections will be held in the occupied Palestinian territories, not only for the council, but for all our institutions in the occupied territories, such as municipalities, chambers of commerce, clubs, and other public institutions. There will be free, political general elections. Thus, the citizens will choose their representatives.

[Mu'addi] Yes. Where will headquarters of the national authority be? What are the institutions that will be covered by this authority?

['Urayqat] The headquarters during the first nine months, according to the agreement, will be in the Jericho region and Gaza Strip. Two-month negotiations will now begin on withdrawal from the Gaza and Jericho regions. At the end of these two months, on 13 December, withdrawal will begin. Israeli withdrawal from the Jericho region and Gaza Strip will be completed on 13 April 1994. This is a specified timetable. Two months later, the Israeli forces will have fully completed their withdrawal from and redeployment in other areas in the West Bank. During the first four months, powers will be fully transferred in all the occupied territories in the fields of health, education, social affairs, tourism, direct taxes, culture, and security. During this period, other authorities will be negotiated. However, on the eve of the inauguration of the elected council, all powers will have been transferred to the Palestinian side. Then, the Israeli Civil Administration will be dissolved, and the military government will withdraw.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib, after the Central Council's endorsement of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the next phase will certainly be decisive and essential with respect to the assumption and management of powers. Has the Palestinian side completed preparations and is it ready to assume power?

['Urayqat] Yes. The Palestinian side is ready. The Palestinians have been preparing themselves for years. We are now at the threshold of a new and delicate stage requiring massive efforts to transfer powers and hold the elections. At this historic moment, I can say that the Palestinian people are ready, and that within less than five years, the independent Palestinian state will be inaugurated.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, currently in Tunis, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Hurani—Tunis Meetings 'Worthless'

JN1010130493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said the PLO Central Council meetings in Tunis today are worthless.

AL-THAWRAH cited Hurani as saying the council's approval of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be illegitimate, because the council does not have the authority nor the right to accept or reject the agreement. He added that the PLO Executive Committee is also not authorized to settle such fateful issues.

Hurani said he is sure that today's meetings seek to legitimize the agreement, pointing out that the Palestine National Council [PNC] is the only party that can do this.

The Palestinian leader accused the supporters of the Gaza-Jericho agreement of working to abort any attempt to hold an emergency PNC session, under the pretext that no Arab country is willing to host this session.

'Abd-al-Shafi: PLO No Democracy

JN1310102193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 33

[By Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, has expressed fears about the stand of the Palestinian leadership which, so far, does not practice democracy in a correct manner. Moreover, the Palestinian opposition is facing confusion over how to confront the current situation, which will further obstruct the Palestinian unity march required in the near future.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR upon his return from the PLO Central Council meetings in Tunis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said he hoped for a change in the stands of the leadership and the opposition in order to cement national unity.

As for the PLO Central Council meetings, which he attended as an observer, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: I attended part of the deliberations and insisted on activating democratic policy within the PLO institutions. I was not at all surprised by the ratification. I said before that the end results, under any circumstances, are more important than the mere adoption or rejection of the agreement.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that, during the meetings, the Palestinian opposition focused on the concessions implied by the agreement—like not directly addressing the issues of Jerusalem and settlement activity.

Asked about the reason for attending the PLO Central Council meetings even though he did not receive an official invitation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: I attended in order to express my opposing point of view. I did not aim to convince anyone to ratify or reject the agreement. However, I focused on our national responsibility toward what is happening and what will happen. I also stressed that we should work sincerely, faithfully, and seriously toward reaching a firm and unified Palestinian stand on a democratic and ethical basis.

Asked if he met with President 'Arafat, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Unfortunately, I did not get the chance to meet him or personally tell him that I do not want to take part in the self-rule institutions. He noted: I might change my stand if there appears to be a real inclination toward Palestinian unity and responsibility. This is especially so because I am not satisfied with the stands and policy of the opposition. It is in a state of confusion and its performance should change in a clear manner.

Asked about signs of a change in his adamant stand, which opposes the agreement, Dr. Abd-al-Shafi said: My stand should be in line with reality and the current circumstances. So far, I have not been delegated any work by the leadership. I am not satisfied with the Palestinian leadership's policy. However, I reaffirm that I will not hesitate to make every effort within the framework of national action toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Asked about his recent meetings with the opposition, he said: I failed to convince the opposition to attend the PLO Central Council meetings in Tunis although I believe that their voice should be part of the Palestinian framework and that choosing not to attend represents a negative stand. Hamas' stand is still not clear or well defined. However, a tendency toward flexibility is beginning to emerge and thus they could take part in the upcoming self-rule institutions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed the need for the opposition to play an effective role in containing differences rather than increasing them. He also noted that the opposition should focus on dealing with realities sensibly in a manner that underscores the Palestinian constants, maintains Palestinian rights, and reinforces the intifadah, which is not the property of anyone and is not subject to a certain decision. The intifadah expresses a popular decision detached from any outside influence.

ALF Split Over Accord Approval

JN1210071293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The PLO Central Council concluded two days of stormy meetings in Tunis last night by ratifying the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on limited self-rule in the occupied territories and the creation of a national Palestinian authority to assume power during the transitional period. This national authority, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, will be comprised of figures from the occupied territories and the PLO Executive Committee. The accord was approved by a majority of 63 votes against eight, with nine abstentions. Most prominent among those who voted against the accord were Shafiq al-Hut, the former PLO representative in Lebanon; Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, the director of the PLO Higher Council of Education and Culture; Abu-Ahmad Halab, the representative of the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]; and Nasif 'Awwad, the representative of the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front [ALF].

ALF's Nasif 'Awwad expressed his objection to the agreement by walking out of the meeting and announcing his withdrawal from all PLO institutions. However, a rupture seems to have occurred within the ALF when Jamil Shihadah announced the establishment of a provisional leadership for the Front under the name of the Arab Liberation Front-General Command, which will continue to be affiliated with the PLO.

Most prominent among those who abstained were Faruq Qaddumi, 'Abbas Zaki, and Sakhr Habash. The three are Fatah Central Committee members. These were joined by Fayiz al-Aswad, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions.

PLO Central Council member Hani al-Hasan said the organizers of the meeting prevented him from participating. Asked by AFP about his absence, he said he did not get the necessary badge allowing him to join the meeting. Denouncing this measure, he said he was replaced by another Fatah member because he objected to the advance measure and one-sided voting. He added: I could not get my badge, and I can say that I was prevented from attending.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat praised the PLO Central Council's ratification of the self-rule accord with a majority. He added that the results were satisfactory and constitute a serious step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, did not attend the meetings. Both boycotted the Council as an expression of their rejection of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, known as the Gaza-Jericho First option. It seems all mediation efforts to restore dialogue and confidence between the two fronts on the one hand, and the Fatah Movement led by Yasir 'Arafat on the other, have failed. A source close to the DFLP said Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, made several attempts to reconcile Hawatimah and Habash on the one hand, and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on the other, but they were in vain. The joint leadership of the two fronts announced its rejection of this dialogue after 'Arafat had wrecked the national coalition, as they put it.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has called on all Palestinian forces and factions to ignore the orders issued by Yasir 'Arafat a few days ago to end armed struggle. A Hamas statement described these orders as a call for surrender.

PFLP-GC Said To Back Accord

JN1210125793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Basim Abu-Sumayyah dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] At the conclusion of the PLO Central Council meeting last night, it was noted that leading Fatah opponents of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement like 'Abbas Zaki, the chairman of the intifadah higher committee and one of the toughest opponents, and Sakhr Habash, a Fatah Central Committee member, did not vote against the agreement, but abstained. 'Abbas Zaki said: It is not easy to accept such an agreement—an agreement that ended a phase during which we felt we could achieve a miracle through struggle.

It is noteworthy that none of the Fatah Movement members opposed the agreement. Some of them just abstained from voting.

Yesterday's surprise was the unscheduled speech delivered by 'Atif Yunus, one of the leaders of the popular committees affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril. In his speech, 'Atif Yunus supported the agreement and said it was the first step toward the liberation of all of Palestine. The next to speak was 'Umar Abu-Rashid, a PFLP-GC leader, who said this stand expresses the opinion of many leaders and cadres in the PFLP-GC. He then extended greetings and appreciation to the democratic peace-loving Jewish forces. The opposition within the Fatah ranks, as I have said, was not prominent; it contained implicit agreement.

As is well known, representatives for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine did not attend the PLO Central Council meetings. The Palestinian leadership will continue its meetings today in order to form the working committees.

Abu-Sharif on Gaza-Jericho Accord, Opposition

JN1110093293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Oct 93 p 23

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent Riyad Mansur in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement addresses practically all sensitive issues, particularly those pertaining to the future of the Palestinian people. What do you think the pluses of the agreement are?

[Abu-Sharif] The only plus is the fact that it marks the first step. It would be worthless without subsequent steps promoting the building of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Over the decades, the Arabs have pursued a double-barreled approach to redress the balance of power with Israel: the strategic parity option advocated by President Hafiz al-Asad and a protracted war of liberation espoused by the Palestinian revolution. However, neither has led anywhere. Indeed, the Israeli enemy pursued an incremental land-grabbing effort and, in the meantime, enforced a step-by-step displacement of our people.

With the cold war over, there has been a change in the rules of the game governing international relations. Nuclear missiles have ceased to be a crucial element in international affairs. Military competition is giving way to economic rivalry. The situation is rubbing off on all hot spots around the world, including the Middle East. The gulf war accelerated the shift. That war devastated Arab military might and undermined Arab financial muscle, with the Middle East coming under the American sphere of influence. Hence the vested U.S. interest in a stable Middle East—a state of affairs that can only be ensured through the termination of Israeli occupation of Arab territory and restitution of Palestinian rights. Not that the United States had been unaware of this equation; it is just that the regional conditions are now such that it could be put in place.

The PLO-Israel accord is a first step that must be followed through and pursued until the Palestinian people attain their right to self-determination and statehood.

We have a long way to go. Now that the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles has been signed, ahead of us are tough and demanding jobs, including building an infrastructure and state institutions and culminating in national independence.

I would say to each and every Palestinian—supporters and opponents of the agreement alike— we have ahead of us the challenge of staying the course until independence. We have to keep ourselves engaged in the building process until state institutions are firmly in place and our independence assured.

[Mansur] What guarantees does the PLO have concerning Israel's commitment to the agreement?

[Abu-Sharif] This is a new world in which the United States is the only superpower. The only guarantee is the United States, and I can say that the U.S. signing of this agreement is the guarantee. Neither Israel nor any other party can, in any stage, dissociate itself from this agreement or stop the march toward the final solution because the political process has started to gain its own momentum, on the one hand, and its advanced mechanism, on the other. The process does not just depend on a general mechanism and so there is no possibility of a stalemate in the process, but it will be dynamic. Undoubtedly, this mechanism will be activated by what is taking place in the Palestinian arena—that is, the Palestinian areas from which the occupation forces will withdraw and the areas in which the Israeli forces will be redeployed.

The demonstrations staged in the territories two days ago calling for freeing Palestinian detainees have not been only Arab Palestinian demonstrations. There have also been peace demonstrations. This mechanism will be more dynamic whenever we make more progress.

In addition to this, the second guarantee is ourselves and our determination to actively implement the agreement and to set up justice establishments and construct the infrastructure for the Palestinian people, whether those who support or oppose the agreement. Our determination to do so will make the mechanism more dynamic, and will give us a greater guarantee and confidence that the agreement will be implemented.

[Mansur] What agreements have been made at the Cairo meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli Prime minister, especially since not many details of the meeting have been leaked?

[Abu-Sharif] Even if we do not speak about all aspects of what was discussed, it is enough that the meeting formed a committee to discuss the subject of Jerusalem. The Palestinian side in that committee will be led by Faysal al-Husayni. This is an evidence of the credibility of what I said about the general mechanism is not the only thing available because the agreement has a special mechanism attached to the general mechanism. There was an agreement in Oslo to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in the final stage, which will begin in five years. However, the committee, which was supposed to begin its work in five years, has already begun its work.

Many matters will still be pending. Our position is that talks about the final stage should begin within the first three years, meaning that it may begin today or at the end of the third year. This will depend on many things. A discussion of the final status of a number of issues has already begun. We have set a deadline for each of the stages.

The Cairo meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin centered on 13 October—the date set for initiating negotiations about the implementation of the accord signed in Washington. That meeting also decided on the formation of specialized committees on Gaza and the West Bank. These committees are not expected to last forever, because we set a 13 December deadline, so the PLO may then begin taking over in Gaza and Jericho.

[Mansur] When and how will 'Arafat relocate to Jericho?

[Abu-Sharif] How 'Araft enters Gaza and Jericho is an internal Palestinian matter to be arranged by the PLO Executive Committee. Naturally, certain matters need to be sorted out before he travels there to take charge and begin setting up key institutions.

[Mansur] The PLO Central Council will convene in the coming two days. The forces opposed to the agreement announced they will not show up for the meetings. What do you think the mood will be like there, and do you think the accord will pass the Central Council?

[Abu-Sharif] That there is opposition to the accord is nothing out of the ordinary. This is Palestinian democracy in action. Even some of those who voted for the agreement, have certain reservations. As I have said: The accord is far from perfect. And, as I have already said, it is but the first step. Opposition to the agreement should serve to enrich the Palestinian mainstream . It is vital that there be opposition inside the official Palestinian institutions. This is indicative of the democratic practice and, at the same time, the message being sent to the majority is that it is being watched for any mistakes or excesses. The Central Council's session will be the first manifestation of Palestinian democracy since the signing of the accord with Israel.

We proposed to make the sessions open to the international and Arab press so the whole world will see the Palestinian democratic process in which the opposing minority expresses its opinion and the supportive majority expresses its opinion. The absence of opposition from the Central Council meetings is a negative position that will neither sway our masses nor benefit our cause after the signing of the agreement. All parties should attend the council sessions because it is better for the cause. All should actively contribute to the construction process and to the efforts aimed at leading the peace process and negotiations toward national independence. I expect that there will be lively discussions at council meetings and that the opposition will point out the defects in that accord. I also expect that the council will endorse the agreement by a majority, and approve the formation of specialized and follow-up committees that will assume control of Jericho and Gaza and set up the national authority.

[Mansur] How will the PLO coordinate with the transitional self-rule authority?

[Abu-Sharif] It is untrue that there will be duplication. The PLO will remain the higher power in its capacity as the representative of the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Council will continue to be the higher legislative authority. The arrangements for the occupied territories deal with the Gaza Strip and Jericho from which the Israeli forces will withdraw, and the rest of the West Bank in which the Israel forces will redeploy.

Before the signing of the agreement, I proposed establishing an interim government headquartered temporarily in Jericho until east Jerusalem is liberated. The interim government will be in charge of national authority in Gaza and Jericho, as well as in the rest of the West Bank. I also proposed that Yasir 'Arafat chairs this government. Although I was criticized for this proposal, I renew it now because it very significant.

[Mansur] The Palestinian opposition announced its rejection of participating in any stage of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. In light of this, how will the PLO deal with the opposition after implementing the agreement?

[Abu-Sharif] President Yasir 'Arafat announced, on many occasions, that he extends his hand to the opposition in order to build together the future state. This is the situation. The opposition has the right to express its political views in the institutions, in public, and through all political methods. However, the majority should respect the minority's opinion, and the minority must accept the majority's opinion.

The opposition will have a great opportunity within the Palestinian institutions and in the occupied territory. After nine months, elections will be held under international supervision. The opposition should work to enter these elections as we do, because these elections will produce independent institutions in the occupied territory.

We call on the entire spectrum of Palestinian opposition, including Dr. George Habash and Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, to engage themselves effectively in building the future Palestine.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, while it said that it is opposed to the accord, has made it clear that it will resort to democratic means. We welcome such a stand. However, Hamas should not keep saying that it commands the support of 30 or 40 percent of Palestinian opinion. We will have to wait and see which way the popular Palestinian vote goes. For our part, we will be bound by whatever outcome the elections produce.

[Mansur] When will the the Palestinian people begin returning to the homeland?

[Abu-Sharif] Shortly. Some 850,000 displaced persons will be returning over the next three years.

As for the refugees, their case will be handled by a special committee that will pursue a comprehensive solution. The solution may not be to the liking of all the Palestinians, but it will certainly be a compromise of sorts that will end the tragic living conditions of the refugees. It will not realize their dreams of 45 years.

[Mansur] When will you yourself return to Jerusalem? What kind of picture do you have in mind for the Palestinian state and people?

[Abu-Sharif] I will return this Christmas. I envisage an independent state, sovereignty over the land, identity, and confederation with Jordan. Unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is unavoidable. Ours is a brotherly relationship with His Majesty King Husayn, and there are many positive sides to this bond. The coming days should see these ties deepen even further and our coordination enhanced. The closer the ties between Jordan and the PLO, the less prone we will be to stumbling.

[Mansur] Would you share with us the salient features of the recently signed Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement?

[Abu-Sharif] A Mediterranean port should go a long way toward building a sturdy and viable economy both in Palestine and Jordan in the context of a confederation. I need not go into the fine print of such an agreement now; it is the agreement itself that matters now.

Qaddumi Denies Arrests Due To Accord Opposition

LD1010213193 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and Yasir 'Arafat now have a common enemy—those Palestinian extremists who reject the Washington agreement and who have shown this by trying to assassinate 'Arafat and killing two Israeli civilians near Jericho . These threats, however, do not at all weaken the willingness on the part of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to achieve peace. First let us join Philippe Rochot in Tunis.

[Rochot] The Palestinian Central Council will meet amidst rumors of plots and the battle for or against the peace agreement. Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO number two, belongs to those who are kceptical about the agreement with Israel. He has confirmed the arrests carried out over the last few days among Palestinian security officials.

[Begin Qaddumi recording, in English with superimposed French translation] Some people were arrested, not for this reason, no, not because they were against the peace agreement, but for other reasons. I should say that they are security guards who have been arrested because of their attitude in the absence of their boss. It is an administrative decision which has nothing to do with opposition to the peace agreement. You know, we do not want to force people to accept this peace declaration. The Palestinians are free to accept or to reject this agreement. It affects the Palestinians as a whole, not just one faction or another. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Habash Praises Syrian Stance, Comments on Accord

JN1110091893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, 11 Oct (SANA)—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has expressed his confidence and pride in Syria and in its firm, principled position. In a statement to TISHRIN, Habash said: Syria cannot relinquish an inch of the Golan or the occupied territory. He added: We appreciate this historic stand made by Syria and President al-Asad.

Regarding the Gaza-Jericho accord, Habash said: This accord constitutes a clear blow to the Palestinian National Charter which has deep and historical meaning to the Palestinian masses. He added that the agreement strikes at the intifadah, tears up the Palestinian arena, lacks the basis of the international legitimacy resolutions, and violates Arab coordination. He said that this accord will deprive 'Arafat of all the weapons that could have been used.

The PFLP secretary general noted that the Gaza-Jericho accord will pave the way for Israeli industry and trade to compete with industry and trade in the Arab region. This, he added, affirms that the dangers of the accord will not be confined to the Palestine question, but will also reach the Arab arena.

Concluding his statement, Habash said that the PLO Central Council's meeting in Tunis is illegitimate and called for a popular referendum for all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory.

PLO Scores Israeli Court Ruling on Jerusalem

LD1210090493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The PLO yesterday [11th October] evening stressed that the Israeli court ruling on holy Jerusalem, stipulating that it was regarding as a part of the area of the State of Israel where its [the State of Israel's] laws and legislations applied, constituted a serious breach of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed in Washington last month, which put Jerusalem on the agenda of future talks.

An official spokesman for the PLO said that the ruling of the Israeli court was political, that it undermined the essence and the clauses of the agreement and harmed its philosophy and principles, and that that kind of attitude made it impossible to rely on definite intentions in the endeavor to realize a just and comprehensive peace. He added that holy Jerusalem was a Palestinian Islamic edifice and that Palestinians had every right to renovate and repair it.

Arrangements To Repatriate 200 Deportees Reported

TA1210150693 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—A responsible Palestinian source has disclosed that contacts are currently being held between the PLO and the Israeli Government over the repatriation of Palestinian deportees to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The source said that the Palestinian-Israeli contacts deal with the issue of repatriating some 200 Palestinians deported by the Israeli authorities since 1967.

The repatriation of those deportees is expected to take place within the next two weeks in implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement's addendum. It is worth noting that 30 Palestinian deportees were repatriated to the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of April in implementation of an agreement reached by the two sides.

Israel Said Ready to Release 10,000 Prisoners

TA1210140693 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that the Israeli authorities have agreed to release 10,000 Palestinian detainees in batches within the coming three months. Tel Aviv has informed Palestinian and Arab parties of this decision. It has also been learned that a number of deportees will begin returning as of next month.

Shaykh Yasin, 6,800 Prisoners To Be Freed

JN1010131993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Oct 93 pp 23, 24

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Excerpt] 'Umar al-Khatib, the charge d'affaires at the Palestine Embassy in Amman, has emphasized that 6,800 Palestinian prisoners and detainees will be freed, led by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Khatib said the Israeli authorities are preparing lists of detainees' names according to priorities, while the Palestinian leadership is making lists of prisoners demanded to be released.

He said the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, formed last Wednesday following the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, will discuss this subject during its first meeting in Cairo on 13 October. [passage omitted]

1,200 Fatah Members To Leave Lebanon Camps

JN1010175493 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 22

[Report by Rafiq Nasrallah]

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I has learned that 1,200 members of the Palestinian Fatah Movement are preparing to leave 'Ayn-al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah camps within the next three weeks.

Palestinian sources said the step does not mean that all armed groups affiliated with Fatah Movement will be dissolved at this stage despite the recent decisions. The sources noted that large quantity of weapons which were at the disposal of Fatah members were collected in special centers. However, some Fatah offices inside al-Rashidiyah and 'Ayn-al-Hulwah are still open and functioning as they were before the Gaza-Jericho First agreement was signed.

The Palestinian sources did not specify the place to which the recently-selected Fatah members will be moved. Observers, however, pointed out that contacts are in progress to move these members to Jordan.

AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I learned that these members include 86 officers of various ranks, with specialities in naval forces, reconnaissance, and air defenses.

Competent Lebanese sources have no information on how these members will be transported. No direct contacts were held between Lebanese authorities and the Fatah Movement to supervise the transport operation, which is expected to take place by sea.

Al-Rantisi Denies Hamas Participation in Self-Rule

JN1110121193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1056 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi in Marj al-Zuhur, good afternoon.

[Al-Rantisi] Good afternoon.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in light of the successive political developments, is Hamas ready to participate in the Palestinian establishments during the self-rule stage?

[Al-Rantisi] As far as I know, the Hamas movement views the latest self-rule agreement as a conspiracy that targets the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Therefore, Hamas will never participate in these establishments, and will continue to support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, their right to return to their homeland, and their right to set up their state on their soil.

[Mu'addi] But is there a possibility that Islamic quarters will participate in cultural, educational, and health establishments to serve the people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Al-Rantisi] The Islamic movement knows how to serve the Palestinian people. It views all the results of self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho as something seriously harmful to the Palestinian people's interest, even on the economic, health, cultural, historical, security, and political levels. Therefore, the Islamic Resistance Movement will not be involved in any plan that harms the Palestinian people.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz, what are the results of the contacts between the Fatah and Hamas movements, and when do you expect the reconciliation meeting in Sanaa be held?

[Al-Rantisi] In fact, Hamas accepted meeting with the Fatah movement, but as we heard, demanded that [PLO Chairman Yasir] 'Arafat and Au-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] not take part in the meeting because they signed something that harms the national interest of the Palestinian people.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi in Marj al-Zuhur, thank you very much.

[Al-Rantisi] Thank you.

Jailed Hamas Leader Defends Executions

PM1310101693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin by Dr. Salih 'Abd-al-Jawwad in Kefar Yona Prison, Israel; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Jawwad] Were any people killed by the Islamic resistance before the intifadah?

[Yasin] Yes. We do not pursue people deliberately, but sometimes you find yourself faced with crime, hence we are compelled to take measures. Some people turned their shops into centers for capturing scores of men, closing the doors and trapping them... very bad. The situation became unbearable. The intelligence services set up capture centers in the country containing men and women.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] How many people did the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] kill before the intifadah?

[Yasin] Three. And we cannot say that Hamas was as organized as it is now. It was just an Islamic group which saw a mistake somewhere and tackled the situation according to its lights. There was no organization. It was merely a reaction to the reality facing them.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Which agents are killed and how are they identified?

[Yasin] People who kill: Killers are to be killed. And also those who violate people's honor. Of course, these two matters are governed by the Shari'ah: killers, adulterers, and agents serving the enemies are to be killed. But if a person repents before the Islamic and national forces uncover and judge him, he is forgiven for what he has done. As for those who are trapped and then say they repent, that is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Is a legal fatwa followed when a verdict to kill an agent is passed?

[Yasin] I believe that investigators should not order the killing by themselves. The accused's statements should be referred to an Islamic authority to decide what should and should not be done. But it is not right for investigators to become the judges, the implementers, and the police.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] But do you not believe that after your arrest they have lost this authority?

[Yasin] They cannot embark on the killing before referring to an Islamic authority capable of issuing a fatwa.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Who gives the orders to kill?

[Yasin] You can ask any shaykh you trust, not a particular person. But he has to be a religious authority capable of issuing a fatwa. Anyone can contact an Islamic figure who is an authority, not necessarily one person in particular.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Is there a court which passes the death sentences?

[Yasin] The court exists, but without any formalities. That is, it is the authority to whom you want to refer and ask. If he is not 100 percent sure, he can refer to another one to seek his opinion until he reaches the correct decision. This means that there is a mobile court and there are Islamic authorities to refer to.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Are there alternative punishments lighter than killing, like house arrest, for example?

[Yasin] There are no half measures: Either killing, acquittal, or repentance. You cannot impose a house arrest or any other punishments, as you cannot monitor them in the circumstances we are experiencing. There is no state. Do we have any other option? This is in the knowledge that ordinary people are released and given the opportunity to repent, except those who commit murder.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Will the physical liquidation of agents continue under the new political developments?

[Yasin] The matter will continue. Will the al-Qassam battalions halt or continue their operations? Of course they will continue them as long as there is a threat to them. Thus the obstacles should be removed. That is, as long as the occupation continues, the cause continues to exist. When the occupation disappears, the results disappear. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Jawwad] In your view, what is the definition of an agent?

[Yasin] Any person who has fallen into the hands of the intelligence services and agreed with them to work against his homeland, people, and religion. Any person who has become subservient to them and carried out what was planned by his masters, the enemies of his people.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Does Hamas have a declared and general position on the agents issue?

[Yasin] These are Islamic principles, and anyone who works in the Islamic field is bound to have studied these stances and concepts, but not at all levels. Of course, the average person in the Islamic movement should know this. But you should not ask a simple person. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Will you continue the policy of killing agents if conditions change and the new political situation results in a Palestinian state or a Palestinian political entity?

[Yasin] (After thinking) I do not believe so. Because as long as there is an authority and a law which judges and deter the criminal for his crime, individuals among the people have no right to attack people's lives.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] How is your condition, shaykh?

[Yasin] We are in a better situation than those who are outside, as you are in a big prison. As for us, we are in a three-star hotel. Here we sleep, but outside the prison everyone is worried, especially when the Israelis storm their homes. [passage omitted]

Fatah Chief in Lebanon Rejects Gaza-Jericho Accord

NC1210085493 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] Sidon—Lieutenant Colonel Munir al-Miqdah, commander of the Fatah forces in Lebanon, has announced that he rejects the Gaza- Jericho agreement and called on Yasir 'Arafat to resign.

Al-Miqdah held a news conference yesterday following meetings held by the Fatah Movement's military cadres in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. The Movement's political leaders in Lebanon did not attend the meetings.

Al-Miqdah said he adheres to the principles on which the Fatah Movement was launched in 1965. The most important of these are armed struggle and the liberation of all Palestinian territory. He said he will stay on within the ranks of the Fatah Movement—the Central Committee. Al-Miqdah said: We are continuing the revolution and we pledge to our martyrs that we will not lay down our arms until all the Palestinian territory is liberated. He stressed that Fatah does not belong to individuals, but to the Palestinian people.

He noted that the political leadership in Lebanon will meet today to make a decision on the agreement. He appealed to the Fatah cadres not to remain indifferent. He also called on the 10 Palestinian groups to reach an agreement acceptable to the Palestinian people that will take them to the safe haven.

Qubba'h Urges Rejection of Gaza-Jericho Accord

LD1110165193 Tripoli JANA in English 1407 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 11, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Taysir Qubba'h, the vice president of the Palestinian National Council, attacked the so-called Gaza Jericho accord, describing it as an accord of elimination and a dangerous [word indistinct] threatening the PLO national programme.

In a statement in Tripoli yesterday, Taysir Qubba'h asserted that the so-called Gaza-Jericho accord was legally invalid and contained big risks to the unity of the Palestinian people and their land, national and historical rights and a blatant violation of the Palestinian National Charter, the PLO internal regulations and the decisions of successive National Councils.

He, as a vice president of the Palestinian National Council, urged the council members to reject the to stamp the seal of recognition on the so-called Gaza-Jericho accord. [sentence as received] He said that he will announce his unequivocal withdrawal from this organ and the seal of recognition.

He urged all members of the National Council, national forces and organisations to defend the national programme and the preserve the national and historical [word indistinct] of the Palestinian Arab people.

ALF Denies Split, Condemns Shihadah Moves

JN1310073993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian sources in Beirut yesterday cited an Arab Liberation Front [ALF] spokesman who condemned the moves of the so-called Jamil Shihadah, who pretends he represents the ALF and claims to have formed a provisional ALF leadership. The spokesman described these claims as trivial announcements.

The sources also quoted the spokesman as saying that Jamil Shihadah had been dismissed from the ALF due to his embezzlement of more than $1 million, his tampering with accounts, and his suspect connections at this critical juncture.

Commenting on a news report carried by the Zionist enemy radio the night before last to the effect that the man named Shihadah is currently representing the ALF after he had formed a provisional leadership, the spokesman went on to say: The ALF Central Committee would like to reaffirm to the masses of our people and nation that it had earlier apprised the PLO leadership and all Palestinian revolution factions of a decision to dismiss Jamil Shihadah. The decision, the spokesman noted, made it clear that he was no longer affiliated with the ALF.

The spokesman reaffirmed the ALF's principled and firm commitment to the substantive issues pertaining to the Palestine question and our people's struggle. He also reiterated the ALF's rejection of the Gaza-Jericho accord and all its results.

Islamic Jihad Delegation Meets With Khamene'i

PM1210091493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Oct 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Jihad Delegation Meets With Khamene'i in Tehran"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A statement issued by the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine" has said that a delegation headed by its secretary general, Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, met in Tehran with the republic's guide, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

The statement said that "Dr. al-Shiqaqi emphasized at the meeting the Islamic Jihad Movement's and the Palestinian people's dissociation from the agreement Yasir 'Arafat signed with the Zionist entity."

He added that this agreement is unacceptable to any Palestinian, does not solve any problem, and is nothing more than an alliance by a Palestinian group with the Zionist entity against the region and the Arab and Islamic nations at the expense of the Palestinian people's interests. The Islamic Jihad Movement will continue its jihad and struggle as though nothing had happened, since the agreement is legally invalid.

Then Dr. al-Shiqaqi said that this agreement applies not only to Gaza and Jericho, but to the region as a whole. This is why U.S. President Clinton is earnestly sponsoring it and exerting pressure on the states which have not supported the agreement to get them to support it.

The statement quoted Khamene'i as saying that he "supports the Palestinian people and their jihad against the Zionist arrogance and occupation." He also said that this agreement will backfire on its makers and will fail just as many of the conspiracies and agreements hatched by the enemies failed and backfired on them. And that this requires strong and serious opposition and resistance. Khamene'i also said that this issue will remain alive and that the Islamic nation as a whole is behind the mujahidin in Palestine at present.

'Ashrawi Interviewed on Status of Jerusalem

LD1210125093

[Editorial Report] Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic at 2145 GMT on 11 October is intercepted in progress broadcasting a live phone-in program called "The File" featuring Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian negotiating delegation in the Washington peace talks. The questions are put by journalists, and the program also includes Mohamed Moaada, secretary general of Tunisia's Movement of Democratic Socialists, and Said Ben Mustapha, Tunisian secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs, as panelists. The program ends after 70 minutes, at 2255 GMT, but one of the panelists indicates that it lasted three hours and describes it as "the longest interview in the history of Tunisian television."

The questions put to 'Ashrawi focus on the status of Jerusalem, and ask which part of Jerusalem the Palestinians want, is there a timetable for the return of refugees, what is to happen to those Palestinians who live neither in Gaza or Jericho, and why include Jericho in the agreement. Among other things 'Ashrawi says that the Palestinians had knocked on the doors of the United States, asking the latter to play a role in secret negotiations with Israel, but their request was turned down three times. "The American complications, especially regarding the PLO, and cutting dialogue with it made the Americans reject these [secret] channels, these efforts, whereas they could have reached results very quickly," 'Ashrawi says in reply to a question asking her to reveal how the secret talks with Israel had come about.

Jerusalem is special, 'Ashrawi says. Israel seized the western part in 1948 and what remained of Jerusalem was found in the holy sites—the essence of Palestinian existence—and that was annexed in 1967. Jerusalem, as far as Palestinians are concerned, is "one whole city." There is no point trying to get it back using religious ideology and dogma, as no middle of the road solution is possible. .

"We approach Jerusalem from the religious side of course, but only as an entrance. Jerusalem is more than a holy site. We do not only want the religious solution, the freedom of worship because Israel would, for example, allow the flag of an Arab or Islamic country to be raised on al-Aqsa mosque, then the Vatican's flag would be raised on al-Qiyamah church, and Israel would say that was freedom of worship, and Jerusalem would remain under Israeli sovereignty. That is wholly rejected. Jerusalem is the issue of land, of rights, of a people, a political, national and legal issue because it is part of the occupied territories. We cannot accept the splitting of Resolution 242 to make it apply to withdrawal from only some territories." She goes on: "We are handling Jerusalem in several ways, and we do not accept imposition or Israeli dictation, or the illegitimate annexation of Jerusalem. There is no country which has approved that annexation except Costa Rica—the one country in the world that has agreed the annexation of Jerusalem, or Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

She adds that Palestinians are trying to reinforce their presence in Jerusalem, not only by establishing institutions and increasing their physical representation, but also politically and diplomatically. Palestinians from Jerusalem, after much effort, have managed to be allowed to "participate" in elections rather than just cast their votes. "For the first time, we got an Israeli commitment to place Jerusalem on the working agenda of the final negotiations," 'Ashrawi adds. "Putting Jerusalem on the agenda means opening up the Jerusalem file. This is a basic and fundamental issue. We have several options. If there is political and realistic pragmatism to deal with Jerusalem, Jerusalem could be a driving force for the new stage of peaceful life, for the prevalence of peace instead of conflict in the region. But there must be a presence and representation for that existence and that is the Palestinian right in Arab Jerusalem."

She reiterates Palestinian calls to the world community, Arab and Islamic states in particular, to chip in and help rebuild and restore Jerusalem and its holy sites, to protect "Jerusalem's character, our history and culture, our civilization in Jerusalem."

The idea of Gaza-Jericho came about by chance, 'Ashrawi says, adding that the agreement was a memorandum of principles that would lead to "direct and total" withdrawal from those two areas—with the Israeli retreat beginning in December. "December will be the start of the withdrawal and at the end of the interim stage and even before elections which are supposed to take place in July, the Israeli Civil Administration is supposed to have been dissolved and the Israeli Government's military withdrawn. This means that all the occupied territories will reach the same position at the end of the negotiations' transitional stage on the final status at the start of the third year."

'Ashrawi explains why the small town of Jericho came to be included in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. "First, Jericho represents the West Bank and geographical unity. Second, it represents contact between the West Bank and Jordan and between Palestine and Jordan. Gaza represents the point of contact between Palestine and Egypt. They are all passages and crossing points to the Arab world representing a geographical whole."

Logistical problems which remain and need to be solved include how policemen will cross from one area to the other, people's freedom of movement on the borders and at crossing points.

Arab states, 'Ashrawi says in response to a question, do have a position on normalizing ties with Israel and removing the boycott. The answer lies in the Arab League, which has not yet put the issue of removing the Israeli boycott on the table for review. The Arab League has said it is still premature to do so, and when the peace talks progress and results can be seen, then the issue can be discussed, she says.

She says the Tunis follow-up committee meeting is discussing the reunion of fragmented Palestinian families who are neither 1967 refugees nor fall under UN Resolution 194 on the right of return. The meeting is also looking into drawing up fresh statistics on the actual number of Palestinian refugees scattered around the world and improving the living conditions of those about whom no political decision can yet be made.

'Ashrawi on Egypt's Role in Peace Process

NC0810142993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has praised the results of the glorious October war and the effective Egyptian role in establishing a just peace in the region. In a comprehensive interview from Jerusalem with the central news unit, she said the October war established a perspective for peace that created a balance hitherto absent in the region—a continuous and cumulative peace. Within the same framework, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles was set up within a general political perspective and language in the region the objective of which is to realize a just and comprehensive peace.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi highlighted Egypt's role in arranging the meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo the day before yesterday. She said Cairo did not play only a host's role. Since the beginning, Cairo's role has been that of a participant in the peace process; it has always tried to overcome the obstacles and problems in the way of the negotiations. It also presented compromises and appropriate formulas. Throughout the negotiations, Egypt played a constructive and effective role in making them succeed. She said the meeting Mubarak held with 'Arafat and Rabin before their bilateral talks in Cairo set the background and bases for their political talks.

'Ashrawi expressed the hope that the meeting's results would set the practical framework for implementing the agreement on principles through a real negotiating mechanism to translate the agreement into practical reality, especially since there is wide acceptance of this agreement by the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

On Jerusalem, 'Ashrawi said there are important issues dealing with Jerusalem that require further contacts and action to overcome the obstacles and reach some kind of agreement that will diminish Palestinian fears. She said Israel has committed itself to negotiating the status of Jerusalem during the final stage with the participation of Palestinians from Jerusalem in the process. This will lead to restoring Palestinian rights to Jerusalem.

Fatah Official Denies Plot To Assassinate 'Arafat

NC1010164793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has denied reports of a plot to assassinate Palestinian leaders, including president 'Arafat, by opponents of the recent Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

He told MENA that the reports are baseless and that no one has been arrested in connection with the alleged plot. Rumors of an assassination plot, al-Qidrah said, were meant to distort the political climate of the Palestinian national action, whose goal is to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Annoyed by the popular rallying around the Palestinian president and leadership, he added, certain factions spread rumors in a desperate attempt to show that the Palestinian public is deeply divided.

Threat to 'Arafat Dismissed as 'Political Argument'

JN1210092693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 93 pp 1, 28

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Amman—A political argument that was interpreted as an attempt to blow up the plane of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. This is, in sum, what has happened over the past few days, said a senior PLO security source in a statement to AL-DUSTUR.

The source explained that as they were drinking tea during a break, three of President 'Arafat's bodyguards and one of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's bodyguards had an argument over the Palestinian- Israeli agreement and were expressing their views freely. The argument was interpreted as a discussion of plan to plant bombs in 'Arafat's plane.

The security source said that it seems that in the course of their discussions on recent developments of the Palestine question, the bodyguards slandered President 'Arafat. However, the source said, there were absolutely no plans to assassinate President 'Arafat, especially by his bodyguards. He explained that the bodyguards are now being interrogated about the slander charges.

The source revealed to AL-DUSTUR that a professional team of bodyguards for 'Arafat has concluded its training in Egypt. He said: If no story of this kind is created, then how can this team replace 'Arafat's bodyguards?

He said: Frankly, the story of the plan to assassinate President 'Arafat was made by Israeli journalists, a large numbers of whom are present in Tunis. He said that the Palestinian officials' contradictory statements show a lack of credibility.

He added that President 'Arfat survived a plane crash in the Libyan desert near a mine field that had been planted by British commander Montgomery in the World War II. He said: I believe that any assassination plot will fail because of President 'Arafat's high security awareness. He added: Do you remember the story of the Beirut building that 'Arafat left only three minutes before it was bombarded by Israeli planes in 1982?

'Senior PLO Official' Denies Arrests of Personnel

JN1010113193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Oct 93 p 17

[Text] Tunis, exclusive—A senior PLO security official has asserted that no arrests were made within the ranks of Palestinian security agencies, contrary to news reports on the arrests of several Palestinian security personnel opposed to the Palestinian- Israeli agreement signed recently in Washington.

The senior official told SAWT AL-SHA'B these reports are groundless, pointing out that what happened was that a Palestinian security group which protects Hani al-Hasan, member of Fatah Central Committee, surrendered its weapons to presidential security and declared its support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and rejection of the attitude of their immediate leader Hani al-Hasan, who opposes the agreement.

The same official also asserted that the Palestinian revolution, whose democracy was laid down by President 'Arafat amid a forest of guns, will proceed along its path. He added that President 'Arafat holds the opposition in high esteem. Evidence of this is that he is always eager to keep in touch with the opposition and keep them informed.

'Arafat Sends Message to Belgian Government

LD0910212593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sent a message today to the Belgian Government on bilateral relations, developments regarding the Palestinian question, the peace process, and bilateral cooperation in the next phase.

The message was handed to Belgian Ambassador to Tunis Guido Quarto, when he was received this afternoon by brother president Abu-'Ammar. During the meeting, they discussed efforts under way to push the peace process forward and to implement the declaration of principles agreement.

Algeria

Premier Signs Protection, Municipal Policing Decrees

LD1310135793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The protection of persons, and public and private property is an inevitable necessity imposed by the dangers resulting from the acts of sabotage and destruction faced by the country's institutions. Within this framework, two decrees—signed recently by Prime Minister Redha Malek—will embody all the necessary measures required to protect persons and institutions in the country.

The two decrees concern the security of administrative institutions and public enterprises, and the setting up of an apparatus for municipal policing. The first legislative text fills a vacuum in the field of security in economic and administrative establishments in the face of acts of sabotage suffered by economic units, including the Baraki leather and hide enterprise and the electronic equipment enterprise in Telagh, in addition to educational institutions and institutes. This legislative text is considered to be a response to the dossier of managers and trade unionists in view of the absence of texts allowing the necessary measures to face acts of sabotage.

The new legislative text enables managers of administrative and public enterprises to adopt measures for the protection of persons and property in working places, and their implementation. What is new in these measures, on the basis of the contents of clause five, will be the possibility for those in charge of protection to carry weapons. This clause came into force after it was defined by a joint decision of the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities and the Ministry of National Defense.

The second decree concerns the setting up of an apparatus for municipal policing within the framework of the powers given to the police working under the authorities of the municipality. The missions of this apparatus will be limited to the guarding and protection of property and persons. It will also be given the task of guarding forest resources.

The issuance of this decree will enable the executive delegation to fill a vacuum in the security field and to undertake the protection of property and persons.

Justice Ministry Announces Execution of 'Terrorists'

LD1110181693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] After exhausting all methods of appeal, the Justice Ministry announced the execution of 13 terrorists.

Executions Stress 'Resolve' of State

LD1210102693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 11 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Justice issued a statement in which it stated that 13 terrorists were executed this morning. They were sentenced to death during the months of February and March of this year by special judicial courts of Algiers, Constantine, and Oran. [passage omitted]

The Justice Ministry statement added that the execution of these persons stresses once again the determination and resolve of the state to protect lives and property and to establish peace.

HCE Commutes Six Death Sentences to Life Imprisonment

LD1110192993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Justice, the Higher State Council [HCE] has accepted the request for a pardon made by six of those sentenced to death by the special courts. The statement, which was issued today, Monday, said that on the basis of the HSC's decision the death sentences passed on Taheri Belkacem, Laskri Djamaleddine, Darhnoun Ahmed Bey, Haoui Kameleddine, Belaid Ahmed, and Bakour Mabrouk had been commuted to life imprisonment. We point out that among the six who have benefited from the commutation of the sentence are some of those involved in the case of the explosion at Houari Boumedienne International Airport.

Armed Group Kills Another Justice Ministry Official

LD1110213193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Following the assassination of Professor Djilali Benkhenchir yesterday morning another cadre at the Justice Ministry was assassinated yesterday evening. The assassination took place in Zeralda town [30 miles west of Algiers]. Mr. Mabrouk Sassi was a 45-year-old married man with two children—he was also a son of a martyr, who graduated from the University of Algiers and postgraduated from a Paris University. The victim was assassinated at his new house in Zeralda by an armed group in front of his small daughter. [passage omitted]

Security Services Break Up 'Terrorist Gangs'

LD0710224193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpt] During the past few days the security organs were able to break up armed terrorist gangs, including the Layada group accused of assassinating thinkers and men of cultural backgrounds, and a group involved in the assassination of Kasdi Merbah, the former prime minister and leader of the Majd Movement. [passage omitted]

Security Communique Announces Arrests, Killings

LD1010201493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the other hand, the security services announced that on Friday [8 October] a terrorist group assassinated the headmaster of Bazoul, in the governorate of Jijel, at his home with cold steel. The same sources said that the terrorist group had gone to the house of the secretary of the War Veterans' Office in town, in the same region, to assassinate him but he repelled them with a hunting rifle and inflicted serious injuries on one of them, while the other two fled. One hour later, the same group went to the house of another schoolmaster and assassinated him. They tried to assassinate his neighbor who defended himself with a hunting rifle and forced them to flee.

In another cable to APS, the security services announced that a police patrol had come under a terrorist attack in the Chetia region, in the Chlef Governorate, and killed policeman Salah Marzoug.

Another communique to APS said that the National Gendarmerie had arrested 22 terrorists in the El Oued region. The terrorists were involved with the terrorist group recently eliminated in the Karat Sidi Redouane, between El Oued and Biskra. The group was referred to public prosecution which ordered 17 of them to be placed in preventive detention, while the rest were released on bail.

Professor on Committee To Safeguard Algeria Killed

LD1110133393 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Algiers, Oct 11 (MAP)—Professor Djilali Belkenshir, paediatrician in a hospital here was killed Sunday [10 October] morning. The victim was killed by four bullets on the hospital lawn. The killer and two of his accomplices fled the hospital after injuring the guard who was trying to prevent them from leaving the premises.

The killed professor is member to 'the committee for the safeguard of Algeria' set up on the wake of the first round of legislative elections in December 91. He is the second member of the committee to be killed and the third assassinated doctor.

Health Minister Condoles Family

LD1110103193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Following the treacherous assassination of maitre Djilali Belkenshir at his work-place, Minister of Health and Population Mohamed Seghir Babes has expressed his deep indignation vis-a-vis this ugly act which he very strongly condemned. The minister addressed his true condolences to the entire family. We would like to remind you that maitre Djilali Belkenshir was a specialist pediatrician.

France: Assassinated Engineer Not Secret Service Agent

LD1110084793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The French Embassy in Algiers has protested the claims made in an article published by the daily LIBERTE, which states that one of the two French engineers assassinated 21 September this year near Sidi-Bel-Abbes was a French secret service agent.

LIBERTE today published a front-page news item, quoting VSD, claiming that Emmanuel Didion was a member of the French secret services. LIBERTE pointed out that the victim may have been assassinated by terrorists because of his membership of such a service.

Algerian, Foreign Companies Suffer 'Terrorist' Arson Attack

LD1110141493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] It has been learned from the security services that at approximately 0100 today, two terrorists set fire to the agency of the Algerian Insurance Company at Oued El Alleug in Blida Province. the agency's archives and some of its equipment was destroyed.

The same source added that the Yugoslav Hidroelektra Company, which is in the Bouzareah region in Medea province, was the target yesterday of a criminal fire which destroyed seven cars and a vehicle used as administrative offices.

It is worth pointing out that this is the first time a foreign company has been subjected to an act of sabotage.

Ali Kafi Consults With Political Party Leaders

LD1110131093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] At the presidency this morning Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HCE], received former President Ahmed Ben Bella, president of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, within the framework of the consultations which the HCE is conducting with political parties and bodies. Afterward, Ali Kafi received Said Saadi, secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, and Mahfoud Nahnah, chairman of Hamas [Islamic Society Movement]. [passage omitted]

Movement for Democracy Urges National Reconciliation

LD1010180493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] believes that the current situation in the country requires a return to the national spirit embodied in the values and principles of 1 November, and to everything that would help achieve national unity and reunite the ranks of the sons of the one nation.

In a statement issued today, the MDA added that the national reconciliation that the movement has called for should promote a serious and responsible dialogue with the political forces active in society in order to achieve a national consensus capable of ridding the country of the turmoil facing it, represented in the multifaceted current crisis.

Journalists Set Up National Association

LD0810182593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The formation of a National Association of Journalists was announced yesterday following a general constituent assembly held at the headquarter of al-Jahidiyah Association in the capital with the attendance of a number of journalists representing the various public and private information media.

According to its founders, whose names are not known yet, this association aims at upgrading professional practice, insuring the journalists, improving the level of the profession, and protecting its ethics.

The temporary bureau of this Association will tomorrow take administrative and legal steps aimed at obtaining the [official] licence.

Indian Minister of State Arrives for Visit

LD1010225093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Raghunandun Lal Bhatia arrived in Algiers late this evening on a two-day visit to our country. He was greeted upon arrival at Houari Boumedienne Airport by Ahmed Ouyahia, the undersecretary of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

The Indian special envoy is carrying a message from the Indian prime minister to the Head of the Higher State Council Ali Kafi; he will also be inviting him to attend the summit meeting of the Group of the Fifteen which is due to take place in the first half of December in New Delhi.

The Indian official will be, during his stay in our country, holding talks with our Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri on the vistas for developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and on how to bolster current international cooperation.

Egypt

Mubarak, Clinton To Meet 25 Oct in Washington

NC1010063993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 10 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM today reports that Presidents Mubarak and Clinton will hold a summit meeting in Washington on Monday, 25 October. U.S. President Bill Clinton will receive President Husni Mubarak to discuss ways to give momentum to the Middle East peace efforts. The agenda of the summit will focus on the peace process in the region, ways to give impetus to the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli talks, and the implementation of and support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Musa: Egypt Holding Contacts on Somalia, Other Issues

NC0910161793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak pays special attention to developments in Somalia in his capacity as OAU chairman and president of the largest African country with historic relations with Somalia. He said Egypt is currently holding contacts with the UN secretary general, a number of concerned American and European governments, and a number of African countries to resolve the situation in Somalia and deal with the deteriorating situation there.

He said Egyptian contacts are taking place from three starting points:

First, the need to start national reconciliation in accordance with the Addis Ababa conference resolutions.

Second, to respect international legitimacy and the UN tasks.

Third, to preserve the unity of Somalia and prepare forthe restoration of the Somali state.

The foreign minister said Egypt will increase its African contacts in coordination with the United Nations. He affirmed that there is a role Egypt is playing with the African leaders and the United Nations, the United States, and the European countries. In addition, there is coordination between Egypt and Ethiopia in this regard.

Answering a question on the development of the situation in the Middle East, 'Amr Musa said: We expect the arrival of an American envoy to bolster the peace efforts in the region. He affirmed that pushing the peace efforts on the Syrian track is important for pushing peace efforts in general. He said there are two important points: The first is to implement the Palestinian agreement and the second is to make progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He stressed that the peace process requires progress on the two tracks.

He said Syria's demands to speed up work on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are important demands. There should be some effort to make progress in this direction. He highlighted President Mubarak's contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and the Israeli prime minister, in addition to contacts his excellency held in the United Nations, and affirmed that the objective behind these contacts is to give momentum to the peace efforts on the various tracks.

'Amr Musa said the refugees' committee, which will meet the day after tomorrow in Tunis, will discuss the subject of the refugees. The foreign minister said Egypt is following up on the results of elections in Pakistan since it is a sisterly country. Egypt hopes Pakistan will enjoy stability in the new situation.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister described the situation in Bosnia as highly complicated and said that the proposal put forward does not establish justice. He added that Egypt hopes the opportunity will arise for justice to be established. He said Bosnia headed the topics discussed during his time at the United Nations to coordinate the stands of the Islamic countries on this matter.

Musa on Mubarak Efforts To End Somali Crisis

NC1010164893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak is continuing his efforts with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and regional, international, and Somali groups to put an end to the fighting in Somalia and achieve a settlement and national reconciliation.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that President Mubarak will hold talks with Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who will arrive in Cairo on Thursday, on ways to resolve the Somali crisis and on the next steps in this direction. Musa added that UN envoy James Jonah will arrive in Cairo tomorrow for consultations on the situation in Somalia and to discuss the arrangements for the meeting scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa on 20 October to find a settlement for the deteriorating situation in Somalia.

Musa said there are resolutions that must be implemented to resolve the crisis in Somalia, including the resolutions of the national reconciliation conference held previously in Addis Ababa, as well as the UN Security Council resolutions on the humanitarian mission in Somalia.

Musa stressed that the solution is not to partition Somalia or to support one Somali faction against another. What is required is unification and measures aimed at national reconciliation and rebuilding the Somali state. This should happen with the cooperation of all Somali factions.

Musa, Mubarak View Somalia Developments

NC1310120193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1029 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who presented his excellency with a report on Somalia and the peace process.

Musa stated that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali will arrive in Cairo tomorrow to submit a report to President Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, on Somalia and contacts with the OAU secretary general and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Musa said contacts are under way between Egypt and Ethiopia in this respect, noting that Somalia is a very important and serious issue. We are interested in seeing national reconciliation and security. There should be no going back to the human tragedy in Somalia.

'Amr Musa said any development requires political action and national accord. This means normalizing relations inside Somalia, the complication of which triggered the problem in the first place, Musa said.

He affirmed that Egypt is acting on this issue as the OAU chairman. He said the names of participants in negotiations [words indistinct]. What counts is to involve all the Somali factions.

The foreign minister denied reports about Egypt's participation in a meeting in Addis Ababa on Somalia. He said contacts are under way to take particular measures involving the OAU, the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and neighboring states. He said the meeting idea was one proposal on which no agreement has been reached yet.

U.S. Withdrawal Decision, Mubarak's Somalia Role Viewed

NC1210071493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM describes the United States' decision to withdraw its forces from Somalia and its call for African mediation to settle the differences there as an ideal opportunity for the OAU and the Arab League to play the role they didn't play in the past to save Somalia and distance it from complex international calculations.

In its editorial today, the paper emphasizes the need to make a move, confine the issue to its domestic context, and search for solutions that would consider the uniqueness of the Somali case. The paper points to the consequences of leaving Somalia to the United States' intervention and the use of excessive force to undermine the tribal balance in Somalia.

The paper urges that the UN role remain within the context of helping Somalia to overcome its plight by providing it with urgent food aid, loans, and the necessary assistance to rebuild the state's economy, which was devastated by aimless and illogical wars in which the national view disappeared.

In its editorial tomorrow, AL-AKHBAR says the quickening pace of events in Somalia that threatened a shift in the UN forces humanitarian mission prompted Egypt to repeatedly declare its concern over the handling of the Somali crisis.

The paper says Egypt urged all the parties to exercise self-control and help to achieve national reconciliation of the Somali leaders instead of persisting in the use of force that threatens to lose the Somali nation's confidence in the forces that were said to have come to save them from the deteriorating situation that killed hundreds of thousands of children and other citizens.

The paper praises President Mubarak's role as OAU chairman and his decision to intervene to see what the OAU can do through the expected meeting in Addis Ababa.

The paper points out that most observers expect President Mubarak to intervene to help Somalia to set up a harmonious, strong government to serve the people and to achieve a reconciliation that would restore peace and security to the country.

Mubarak Not To Attend Somalia Conference

NC1310094193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0849 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source has announced that President Husni Mubarak will be unable to attend the Somali national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa on 20 October because of his busy schedule at the start of his third presidential term.

Commenting on media reports on the issue, the source said President Mubarak pays great attention to events in fraternal Somalia and exerts every effort to find a way out of the crisis. The source added that President Mubarak is constantly in touch with his brothers, the African leaders concerned with the situation in Somalia, to consult with them on the issue.

UN Envoy Leaves for Addis Ababa

NC1210122193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—James Jonah, an emissary of the UN secretary general, left Cairo today for Addis Ababa, winding up a visit of a few days to Egypt during which he held talks with Egyptian officials on Somalia.

In a departure statement, Jonah said the United Nations seeks to achieve three main objectives in Somalia: The first is to send human aid to Somalia, the second to maintain an atmosphere of stability in the country, and the third to achieve political reconciliation among the rival factions. The UN official said the aim of his talks in Cairo and those he will hold in Addis Ababa is to make sure that everyone is committed to a common policy on Somalia. This is particularly important in light of the multiplicity of initiatives concerning the country, Jonah added.

One of the goals the OAU and the United Nations will seek to achieve at the Addis Ababa summit due to be held on 20 October is to hammer out a common agreement on the Somali problem, the UN official stated.

Jonah pointed out that he will visit Mogadishu in the next few days to hold talks with Somali and UN officials for the same purpose.

Musa Warns Iran's Velayati on Mideast Stance

NC1310094393 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt has warned Iran of the dangers of opposing the Middle East peace process and has asked Tehran to support the peace march and to stop supporting the extremist elements that oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York. They did not discuss why Egyptian-Iranian relations are tense. 'Amr Musa stressed the dangers behind Iran's opposing the Middle East peace process. Iran was warned by the West—France, Britain, and Japan—over its position on the peace process.

Chinese Delegation Arrives for Sino-Arab Dialogue

NC1310080993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2303 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Wu Xueqian, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and former foreign minister, arrived here this evening leading a delegation to attend the second round of Sino-Arab dialogue, organized by The Egyptian Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity. The dialogue will begin on Thursday in Cairo and last until 17 October.

This round is particularly significant since it comes at the end of the Cold War, when there is an ample opportunity to consolidate Sino-Arab relations for the good of both parties. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will address the conferees at the beginning of this round of talks. National Democratic Party Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali and Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi will meet with the participants.

Mubarak Accepts Invitation to Visit India Oct

NC1310094993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the Indian minister of state for foreign affairs [title, no name as received] at the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning.

Afterward, the Indian minister said he handed President Mubarak a message inviting him and his wife to attend the Group of 15 meetings in India from 13-15 December and the Education For All conference due to be held in India from 16-18 December and that President Mubarak accepted the invitation.

He said he congratulated President Mubarak on being reelected and handed him a congratulatory message from the Indian president. He said: We are very happy with President Mubarak's leading role through his contributions for the developing nations.

'Representation Office' To Open in South Africa

NC1110161993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] An official source from the Foreign Ministry has stated that in response to the positive developments in South Africa; African National Council Leader Nelson Mandela's appeal to lift diplomatic, economic, and trade sanctions imposed on South Africa; the UN General Assembly's recent resolution to lift the sanctions; and the statement issued on 29 September at the emergency ministerial meeting of the South Africa Committee formed by the OAU; the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to open a representation office in South Africa as a first step toward establishing full diplomatic relations after the general elections in April and the formation of a national unity government. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Takes Presidential Oath, Delivers Address

NC1210135093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1018 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Address by President Husni Mubarak after taking the presidential oath during a ceremony at an extraordinary session of the People's Assembly in Cairo to mark the beginning of his third term in office—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly: It is my great honor to take the constitutional oath before your distinguished Assembly to mark the start of a new presidential term. My hope and plea is that my new presidential term will meet with the approval of almighty God and will be the start of a new phase that will put Egypt at the threshold of the 21st century as a strong, secure, stable country, enjoying a strong economy, full democracy, and prominent international status, and preserving for its great people their role in civilization.

Being nominated by you was an honor of which I am proud. It was an assignment I could accept to preserve the supreme interests of dear Egypt, safeguard the people's sacrifices and hopes, keep our national march on its correct course, and build a homeland that kindly embraces all its sons, prospers through amity and faith, and upholds justice and shura. This homeland, backed by national cohesion, can confront the immense challenges that our people and nation will face in this delicate phase of their glorious history.

I accepted the nomination because I was confident that our great people can confront these challenges responsibly and conscientiously and in a way that will provide a national struggle with an overall view, firm resolve, and strong and firm unanimity that distinguishes between truth and lies and between right and wrong. The people's say will always reign supreme. Egypt will remain forever lofty and proud, able to transcend every ordeal and difficulty.

In past years, the people have chosen to protect their march, safeguard their achievements, and stand united in the battles of reconstruction and in the battle to confront the advocates of destruction and sabotage, who want to disperse the homeland's efforts in showdowns that sap its resources and capabilities.

The Egyptian masses who went to the polls to perform their national duty have again proved to everyone that the people know their correct course and can distinguish between correct objectives and false, wrong schemes. The people wisely realize that defending stability and security means defending Egypt's future development and democracy and its right to survive. The people are not taken in by the tricks of those who have tried to sow confusion to spoil a national consensus that is clear like sunlight and as distinct as a sword's edge; they reject everything that threatens the homeland's stability or hinders its progress.

When I discuss the awareness of the masses who have shouldered their national responsibility sincerely and firmly, I do not speak only of those who said yes, but also of those who said no. The essence of democracy is for every one of us to exercise his duty fully convinced of his right to choose by casting his vote. Then, it does not matter if he says yes or no. More importantly, society's participation should rise to a level that protects the right of the majority to make decisions.

I am not worried that opponents say no. This is the nature of a democratic system, which requires a multiplicity of views and choices. Personally, I am fully convinced that absolute unanimity is very difficult, even impossible, in these times. Ultimately, we are human beings governed by various criteria that could be wrong or right. My real preoccupation remains that the scope of participation in national work should expand to include everyone—the majority and the minority and the supporters and opponents—in a national consensus that places the homeland's supreme interests above the differences of individuals and parties and above the considerations of the political game and the temptation to make a quick profit at the expense of the national interest. This is the nature of the democratic system, which requires a clear national consensus on clear priorities, primarily the need to protect democracy from the subversive elements and outlaws. From this standpoint, I sincerely say: Thanks to everyone who said yes, because they gave us renewed confidence in our ability to confront the sudden difficulties, uproot their causes, and continue our march toward the correct goal of building a homeland that embraces all its sons with kindness.

Thanks also to those who said no because they performed their duty, respected their right to participate, and gave us a chance to search for mistakes and shortcomings so that we can continue to steer in the right direction. Starting from this premise, I assert that I will remain, as always, a president for all Egyptians, making no distinction between supporters and opponents. [applause] In my opinion, they are all Egyptian patriots, even though their views may differ on the course of national action or ways of achieving its objectives.

Brothers and sisters: The nomination and referendum came under delicate circumstances that dictated the need for a national agreement on the basic objectives of the country in the near future according to their correct priorities. Our primary objective should be to preserve the homeland's security and stability, without which it is impossible to make any real progress. Preserving the homeland's security and stability and considering this a top priority dictated by the supreme national interest does not mean neglecting the other national objectives or shirking our responsibility toward them. It means we should have a national consensus that the homeland's security and stability are two necessary conditions without which the national march cannot reach its objectives.

Despite the acts of violence that have frightened the Egyptian people and deprived them of sleep, some have claimed that we have stressed security and stability to the point of shirking our responsibility toward what they see as a vital need to expand democratic participation. This is outright deception and innuendo. Our view is based on accurate calculations that place the national interest over any personal interest. From our position of responsibility, we sense the risks that plans that are not well thought out pose for a homeland for which several forces lie in wait, forces that do not want it to enjoy stability and progress.

We are very eager to establish full democracy that opens the door wide for all those who want to participate. We have made great strides in this direction. No one can deny or belittle this unless they are sick minded. We have lifted all press censorship. We now have a free national and party press that writes what it wants without control or censorship. This is so despite the fact that several violations have occurred which have sometimes harmed the homeland's interest and jeopardized the rights of many of its sons. The door is now wide open for all political forces to participate in party activity that covers all trends and views. Certain controls have even been bypassed, letting certain groups infiltrate—groups that the Constitution and laws have banned from political activity to safeguard the homeland.

We have come a long way toward a full democracy with responsible initiatives that ensure a safe march. We emphasize the issue of security and stability, because we want the national march to reach its goals safe and sound guarded by the people's solidarity and their national consensus. This is the safest path and the one with the greatest guarantee of achieving comprehensive development and complete democracy in a world buffeted by winds of violence that shake nations' stability and cause total chaos, requiring vigilance and precise calculations.

Brothers and sisters, I have great hopes for the new term in office. I pray to God to cherish our march. But great hopes require hard work and great sacrifices, a sincere patriotic sense, responsible realization of the priorities of national action, and sincere and constructive dialogue to invigorate the homeland's unity and preserve its cohesion. To achieve our great hopes, it is not enough to lay the burden on the regime alone. One hand cannot clap alone. A successful society can reconcile the roles of all forces within a framework where the efforts of the people integrate with those of the regime, the effort of the majority with that of the opposition, and the citizen's effort with that of the society. To achieve our great hopes, it is not enough to focus on demands and rights regardless of a country's rich resources. No society, no matter how rich its resources, can fulfill its people's demands and rights in the absence of a sense of duty and responsibility. So what is the situation when we know the homeland has limited resources. To achieve our great hopes, it is not enough to remain spectators and accuse one another and cast doubt on every achievement, because broad participation is the safety valve that safeguards national action.

At the outset of my new term, I look forward to a homeland that will prosper through the cooperation of all its parties within the framework of a national accord that cherishes the considerations of national interests and places the issue of stability in its right place as one of the priorities of national action and ensures an appropriate atmosphere to broaden responsible participation and safeguards the homeland's unity and its social peace. I will spare no effort to implement this national agreement according to its sound conditions and priorities, because the homeland is for all. We will build it together with cooperation and love. From this esteemed platform and in the presence of the people's representatives, I call on all democratic Egyptian forces to hold a constructive dialogue to define the priorities of national action within the framework of a responsible realization of Egypt's problems and current challenges [applause] and enlightened understanding of its international and regional circumstances and precise assessment of the risks facing a homeland still overburdened and confronting massive challenges.

Brothers and sisters, I am not one of those who believe they can do everything alone. I believe that we must all try to make strenuous efforts to help Egypt overcome its current hardships and forge ahead toward its desired goals. We will always be eager to see real involvement that assumes its share of duty and responsibility. We look forward to a responsible participation by the Egyptian parties, participation that goes beyond the current state of just making demands. We look forward to a responsible participation by all the national action institutions, who should consolidate efforts in an integrated action and not be spoiled by selfishness and competition for simple interests. We look forward to a responsible participation by every Egyptian man and woman, because a good country is the harvest of the efforts of good citizens who perform their duties conscientiously and achieve a balance between their interests and those of all other people.

Brothers and sisters, some, including me, have called for a new work program for a new term in office [applause]. However, it should be understood that we can never start from scratch, giving no consideration to the enormous efforts the Egyptian people have made over the past 12 years within the framework of a clear program that has changed the course of the ruling process in Egypt; accomplished significant and crucial transformations in society; changed many national action concepts; and laid the solid foundation for an economic and political reform that has covered all aspects of Egyptian life.

We have a vision about a new program, which is an improved version of the program we have pursued over the past period, because we believe that we have had and still have a comprehensive national program that has made significant improvements at all levels. With this program Egypt safely moved from a totalitarian to a democratic society and undertook another no less important transformation as it shifted to a market economy to improve the lifestyle of the Egyptian people and establish new concepts. Those new concepts eliminate hurdles and restrictions, open closed doors, restore confidence between the ruler and the people, motivate all to participate, free the hand of the private sector so that it can assume responsibility for development, and make society an integrated whole in which interests are interrelated away from the grudges imposed by the class conflict or the ideological fanaticism that isolates many groups from national action.

I do not only have a new program but also a definite resolve to comprehensively change the country's performance methods [applause] so that they will better serve our nation's needs. The people still complain about the slowness of decisions, the low quality of some services, the lack of accountability, and poor coordination and integration among participants in the same field of work. [applause] This change cannot be achieved without injecting new blood into party life and the executive branch [applause] to give these institutions new energy and experiences and make them more capable of initiative, more creative and enthusiastic about economic and political reform, and more aware of the ever-increasing role of learning and knowledge in administering government affairs and services. [applause] Brothers, sisters, our quest for change does not signify criticism of past executive and party performance [applause] into which arduous efforts went under difficult circumstances. The change does, however, illustrate our constant search for improvement to produce more adroit and capable work. [applause]

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government made tremendous, praiseworthy efforts [applause] to implement economic and political reform programs on well-planned foundations, taking care all the time to reduce unwelcome side effects as much as possible. That government also had undeniable success in fixing numerous flaws in the Egyptian economic structure. [applause] It faced many unexpected problems and horrendous difficulties that no one could have foreseen or averted. I salute this government for the substantial services it offered and the arduous efforts it made for the homeland's sake. [applause]

Brothers, sisters, change is the law of life but change is not a demand to make of government alone. Every one of us must change himself [applause] until God improves our conditions. [applause] The best way to do this is for each of us to see his own faults before seeing those of others, take himself to account before doing that to others, fear God privately and publicly, and realize that the homeland has rights that must not be squandered. The first of these is that the citizen must be a good citizen, conscientiously carry out his duty, and refuse to be silent about any errors he witnesses.

Brothers and sisters, time may not be sufficient right now to elaborate on the shape of the coming stage as I see it through the light of our existing program, the achievements of which now exist among us. The proper time for this would be the commencement of the new session of your esteemed Assembly. However, I can affirm that the coming stage can be a fruitful one with a new harvest if we manage to mobilize all our energy and resources and work in harmony and integration to reach our national goals. That way each one of us can dedicate his thought and efforts to determine the role he should play to give a strong impetus to national action, instead of wasting his energy on insignificant and futile side battles to no avail. We can address the challenge firmly and effectively if we succeed in overcoming the existing hardships and obstacles the same way we overcame previous problems, and if we uproot terrorism and foil its schemes that seek to ruin Egyptian stability and drag the country into a dangerous battlefield that would deplete its power and resources.

This requires a firm stand that evaluates the issue in its proper perspective, with no underestimation or overestimation, so that we can foil this evil scheme. The men of the police are doing their best with peerless courage [applause]. Some of them fall as martyrs during lowly crimes that seek to destroy the morale of the Egyptian security organ and, hence, leave the door open for sabotage groups to carry out their evil plans to weaken Egypt and impoverish its people. I have no doubt that a national agreement that gives the right priority to fighting terrorism on the national action agenda will give these brave heroes a constant popular assistance that will help them limit the duration of the confrontation [applause].

Brothers, from this platform I pay tribute to the martyrs of the police and the people [applause]. In the meantime, I pay homage to the efforts of the good citizens who have fought terrorism on their own accord to provide the right example [applause], to give the right example to some of our political parties that still hesitate.

Brothers and sisters, I elaborated on this issue because I believe that restoring security to this country and establishing stability will pave the road for investing the accomplishments of the economic reform, particularly since we are coming closer to overcoming the complex hardships involved in the first stage. We can then launch a fruitful stage that will benefit our people. Egypt will be able to address the problems of unemployment by providing more opportunities for productive jobs for its sons; to upgrade services to the proper levels, particularly in the areas of health and education; to find rudimental solutions to the deteriorating conditions in shanty towns; and to raise development rates and hence achieve balance between supply and demand by providing sufficient commodities and stabilizing prices.

These hopes do not come out of a vacuum; they are based on enormous efforts that have resulted in the full renovation of the infrastructure which, for the next 10 years, will absorb more productive foundations in the same way it resulted in a comprehensive change of policies that changed relations within the society as a whole, restored confidence to the national economy, and opened the door wide to everyone who wants to take part in the development effort.

It is a good omen that the beginning of the new term in office should coincide with celebrations marking the anniversary of the glorious October victory [applause], the victory that embodied the Egyptian man's ability to achieve a near miracle. This great accomplishment, which still has a positive impact on the Middle East peace process after 20 years, embodies the Egyptian man's ability to face up to the strongest challenges. Embodying the Egyptian man's skill in planning, coordination, and good performance, this accomplishment is a certificate of glory for our courageous armed forces [applause]—a certificate of glory for our courageous armed forces and a certificate of credibility for our great people. If it were not for the people's cohesion with the Armed Forces, this accomplishment would not have been performed that magnificently.

During the new term in office, I look forward to a different performance similar to the Egyptian performance during the October war. Brothers and sisters, the results of the referendum overwhelm me with loyalty and gratitude to this great people. This great people have given me a precious trust, [applause] overwhelming me with love for and faith in this people's ability to make miracles. Words are too poor to express my feelings of pride in this magnificent support by the people. This support will be the best mainstay in confronting our current challenges with confidence, relentless resolve, and insistence on reaching our goals no matter what the difficulties and obstacles.

I am confident that we can overcome our difficulties to resume our national march and build a strong, united country full of the magnanimity of faith and the light of knowledge, a country that is free of hatred and friction, that is dominated by compassion and justice and spreads its good to everyone. I believe, God willing, that we will attain our goals because we have a clear vision that draws the line between right and wrong, the possible and the impossible. We will reach our goals because we are not beginning from a void but from enormous achievements, and because we know the mettle of this people whose nobility and great compassion appear during hard times.

Brothers and sisters, I need not repeat what I stressed when I thankfully received your decision nominating me for a new term in office, that this high post means to me only continuing toil, sweat, and effort [applause] out of concern for our noble people's interests. I will have no gain, respite, or ambition but the continuing effort that satisfies God and the homeland. I will be as you have known me, a supporter of right against wrong and the weak against the strong, and a voice allied to the people. We will fight corruption, negligence, and laxity. We will call for solidarity, integration, and compassion. We will stand where the interests of the majority of our working people are. I pray to God almighty to consolidate our feet on the path of right and to spare us the hurdles on the path and guide us. God is the best supporter. May God's peace be upon you. [applause]

Sidqi Presents Mubarak With Cabinet's Resignation

NC1310103993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0853 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at the Presidential Office this morning, when Sidqi presented President Mubarak with the Cabinet's letter of resignation.

Before meeting President Mubarak, Sidqi said he was optimistic and satisfied with the future of peace in the region. He said that Egypt, the State and people, wishes success for the parties to the peace talks, because peace is not a goal in and of itself, but rather a condition for progress and development.

The prime minister said living in peace and stability is vital for Israel, all Arab countries, and the Palestinian people in particular.

He said the purpose of the Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo today is to devise steps to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

Answering a question on the new Cabinet, Sidqi said there is nothing to tell yet.

Instructed To Form New Cabinet

NC1310114593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1116 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak asked Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to form a new Cabinet today.

After meeting President Mubarak for over two hours today, Sidqi said he was honored that the president had instructed him to form a new Cabinet according to the president's directives in his speech at the People's Assembly yesterday.

Dr. Sidqi said that during the meeting, he submitted the Cabinet's resignation to President Mubarak following the Council of Ministers' approval at yesterday's session according to the Constitution and in line with constitutional law.

He said he hoped he would complete consultations today to start implementing the president's directive to form a new Cabinet. He said changes in the new Cabinet will not be small and [words indistinct] God willing.

He said some ministries will be merged and that new ones, like the Housing and Environment Ministries, have been formed. He remarked that all this will be clear in light of today's consultations. He noted that there is also change within the Economic Group.

Mubarak Appoints New Central Bank Governor

NC1310140093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree appointing Isma'il Hasan Muhammad as governor of the Central Bank. He replaces Dr. Salah Hamid, who resigned this post. Isma'il Hasan Muhammad was president of Alexandria Bank and president of the International Egypt-America Bank.

Mubarak Instructs Governors To Stay in Office

NC1310143393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree for the governors to continue discharging their duties until the president appoints new governors.

Ministers al-Razzaz, 'Ubayd To Stay in New Cabinet

NC1310140893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said today that Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz and Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd will remain in the new cabinet.

Al-Razzaz was finance minister, and 'Ubayd was cabinet affairs minister and minister of state for administrative reforms in the cabinet that submitted its resignation today.

Dr. Sidqi added that former Economy Minister Yusri Mustafa will not be included in the new cabinet.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 13 October reported that "Prime Minister Sidqi will hold a news conference tomorrow to announce the new cabinet."]

Interrogation of Party Officials, Journalists Noted

NC1210195493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Khalid Yunus]

[Excerpts] In a serious precedent that coincides with the beginning of President Husni Mubarak's third term in office, Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad and fellow journalists Salah Budaywi and 'Ali al-Qammash were detained yesterday evening at al-Nuzhah Police Station on the orders of the Higher State Security Prosecution Office after lengthy interrogation yesterday morning and evening. [Labor Party Secretary General] 'Adil Husayn and [AL-SHA'B chief editor] Majdi Husayn have been called in for questioning.

Several charges were made against them during the interrogation, including insulting the president of the Republic and jeopardizing justice, social justice, and peace with the United States in the articles and reports they wrote in the last two issues of AL-SHA'B. [passage omitted]

Yesterday morning Chief Prosecutor 'Ali al-Hawwari interrogated Dr. Hilmi Murad for three hours on his articles published in AL-SHA'B on 28 September and 5 October. The first is entitled "No To Mubarak" and the second "The Aftershocks of the Referendum, Like Those of the Earthquake, Will Continue." The prosecutor charged Dr. Murad with insulting the president of the Republic for demanding that the president submit a statement of accountability on the weapons purchase contracts he concluded under an authorization from the People's Assembly.

[In his article on page 5 of the newspaper AL-SHA'B on 5 October, Murad says: "At the end of his second term in office and the start of his third, we demand that President Husni Mubarak submit to the People's Assembly a statement on the weapons deals he concluded, both buying and selling, under the authorization granted to him by the People's Assembly so that they can be examined by the Central Auditing Agency to clear his financial status, in accordance with the customary constitutional and financial practices applicable in this regard."]

Dr. Murad stated that he had made this demand in the interest of Mubarak as president of the Republic after it had been said that certain reports were submitted to the Congress on presidents who get commissions, adding that it is for the good of the president to disassociate himself from any suspicions. The prosecutor charged Dr. Murad with insulting the president for calling upon him to introduce wide-ranging constitutional reforms. He was also charged with disseminating the beliefs of extremist groups for calling on the Al-Azhar imam and the mosque preachers to stay away from the propaganda campaign for the referendum.

In the meantime, Salah Budaywi was also questioned over his article in AL-SHA'B on 5 October entitled "The Greatest Act of Sabotage Against Agriculture With Egyptian Hands and Zionist-U.S. Planning." The prosecutor charged him with insulting the president of the Republic, propagating ideas harmful to national unity, and spreading false information against peace with the United States!!! (By God, could you believe it!)

Budaywi denied the charges made by Chief Prosecutor Sharif 'Abd-al-Nabi and said that his information is documented. [passage omitted]

Counselor 'Abd-al-Salam Badawi questioned 'Ali al-Qammash in connection with his report entitled "The State Security Intelligence Is Behind the Criminal Prisoners' War Against Political Prisoners at Abu-Za'bal Prison." A State Security Intelligence memorandum accused the journalist of disrupting social justice, peace, and national unity and violating the law and the Constitution. Al-Qammash stated that the law gives a journalist the right to obtain information and to have free access to sources. Attorney Muhammad Shukri 'Abd-al-Fattah attended the interrogation with al-Qammash.

Mubarak's NEW YORK TIMES Interview Reported

NC1210191393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the government has succeeded in putting the extremists to flight. He said the majority of these extremists are criminals who receive orders from abroad. He pointed out that most of them were imprisoned after committing crimes but escaped and are now being recaptured, which is why the situation is calming down.

In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent Chris Hodges, conducted in Cairo, the president said that the public is now firmly opposed to those extremists.

The president denied that the journalists employed by the newspaper AL-SHA'B, who were detained for three days and released last Saturday [9 October], were arrested because they insulted the president. He said they were arrested because they support terrorism.

The president strongly denied that newspaper's reports about certain arms deals.

President Mubarak said that he hesitated before running for a third presidential term but eventually agreed to run one more time because he was afraid that chaotic conditions would prevail in the country and he wanted to continue his effort to move Egypt toward a market economy.

The president announced that he will not seek reelection when his current term ends.

Commenting on foreign issues, President Mubarak praised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, saying: "You can discuss things with him." He said that he is not likely to visit Israel soon.

President Mubarak said that he will meet with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in the next few days to discuss financial aid for the Palestinian self-government.

Regarding the Libyan-Western crisis, President Mubarak said he expects Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to make concessions but refused to disclose what steps Libya might take on this matter.

Mubarak's Efforts at Domestic Reform Criticized

NC1310101093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 6

[Article by Ibrahim Disuqi Abazah: "What's Behind the Reelection?"]

[Text] And so finally President Mubarak triumphed over his anonymous opponent and defeated the ballot's Mr. (No) with the help of millions of votes that flowed into the ballot boxes via the government committees. The administration's men fulfilled their electoral duty on behalf of everyone, including the sick, the dead, and those who do not live in Egypt!

Now what will the president do with us after this overwhelming victory? I do not believe that anyone has learned anything from the president's interviews carried on the government media prior to the referendum.

Should we believe what the president said to Makram Muhammad Ahmad in AL-MUSAWWAR, or what he told

AL-AHRAM's Ibrahim Nafi' one week later? Do these presidential interviews agree with what the president told AKHBAR AL-YAWM's Ibrahim Sa'dah, or what he stated during his television interview with Mufid Fawzi?

The content of these extensive interviews conducted before the referendum causes much confusion and astonishment and spurs one to indulge in meditation in order to decipher the riddles and solve the contradictions in many passages and sentences.

What exactly does President Mubarak want? The normal observer cannot discern in these interviews a clear thread of thought that can clarify things. Does the president wish to follow the same policy that he has followed for the past 12 years, or does he want a new policy and a new path, different in whole or in part from the policy that we have known for the past 40 years?

All the presidential interviews do not give a clear answer to this question and, indeed, show that the president thinks and speaks in a way different from that of the opposition. In all his statements he speaks of changing faces and names. The opposition is talking about changing the Constitution, the regulations, the laws.

The president speaks clearly about the replacement of ministers within the current system over which his excellency presides. Put briefly, and with particular reference to his television interview with Mufid Fawzi, the president finds no defect in the current Constitution or laws, although the current laws contradict the new economic policies that his government adopts, notably the privatization policy which is unconstitutional under the existing Constitution. The opposition wants the Constitution changed.

Also, the president seems satisfied with the way in which his presidency is renewed. He sees nothing wrong in regarding the referendum method as the pinnacle of democracy, although it is actually a departure from democracy and a violation of its most basic tenets. Presidents with real mandates do not come to power via referendums but through free and direct elections between competing candidates with public platforms. A referendum is the appointment of an imposed person to the president's post. It can never have democratic legitimacy because it does not allow a choice between two or more candidates or permit actual supervision of the referendum process. Despite this, the president, in his interviews, adroitly glosses over the political crisis and circumvents the calls for political reform while speaking at length about the achievements. He takes pride in the loan agreements concluded during his presidential terms and believes that building the infrastructure with borrowed money was inevitable and that writing off debts was something splendid. He ignores the fact that it would have been more splendid to build the infrastructure with the country's own efforts because the consequence of extensive borrowing was that the World Bank and the IMF intervened and are now controlling our economic and social policies. This is one of the major errors from which we suffer today and from which we will suffer in future. The most astounding thing is the economic reform of which the president boasts in most of his statements as if this reform had actually been carried out and had become a sweet memory for the rulers to boast of on appropriate occasions.

The fact is that economic reform has not yet begun.... What has been done so far is merely a collection of economic and currency measures and procedures such as abolishing subsidies, levying taxes, freezing the exchange rate, freeing the interest rates, and so forth. The government seized the opportunity of a drop in the interest rate on the dollar and raised it on the Egyptian pound, succeeding in this way in acquiring a foreign currency reserve amounting, according to the president, to $12 billion.

It is strange that the president should imagine that acquiring the aforesaid sum is a great triumph of his policy and a sweet fruit of economic reform. Actually, this entire currency effort has been done at the expense of the Egyptian economy. Freezing the exchange rate, liberating the interest rate, or acquiring a foreign currency reserve are all not ends in themselves but means to achieve an end, namely reviving the economic process and increasing investment. If these measures hinder the economy, halt investment, and spread unemployment, then of what use are they? The Egyptian economy is suffering an acute shortage of ready cash, terrible credit restrictions, a considerable decline in the public's buying power, and a fearsome disturbance of the export-import process. All this imposes on the country a dreary atmosphere of recession and inflation that is crushing investment potential and ruining every hope of surmounting the economic crisis.

If the president wants to know the truth, it is this: His successive governments have turned the economic reform pyramid on its head because of their incompetence. Instead of beginning the reforms from the base, they began from the apex. They should have rebuilt the production structure, then the budget structure, and finally the currency structure. They did the opposite in order to avoid facing reality and consequently they failed and are now facing the threat of a greater crisis during which we will live dreadful days of expectation until someone becomes convinced that what is essential is political reform. Political reform is the primary condition for all the reforms that the nation desires.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Committee on Recognition of Israel

LD1010155993 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued the following statement:

The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has noted that a misunderstanding has occurred regarding what is taking place in the Arab region, which has led some brothers in the Third World to compete in recognizing the so-called state of Israel. This is a matter which constitutes a danger to Arab people, including the Arab Libyan people.

Twenty Arab states have not [as heard] recognized the artificially created Israeli state, which owns nuclear missiles with a range of thousands of miles, thus threatening all Arab countries and all Middle Eastern states.

The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation stresses that there is no solution, in the near future, to the Palestine question, because a real, effective solution should be based on the return of 7 million Palestinians to their land and on their self-determination. If this were achieved by the establishment of a (?new) state, then a new situation would exist under which relations could be established.

The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation calls on the brothers to halt the wave of recognizing the Zionist entity. The Zionist entity constitutes a danger to all the countries in the region, and the recognition of the so-called state of Israel would mean rewarding the aggressors and encouraging them to continue their daily aggression. Also it would mean a reward for those who demolish houses with tanks, violate human rights, confront innocents with bullets, attempt to eliminate the people of the Middle East, and threaten world peace.

The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation hopes that the brothers in the Third World who have recognized the Zionist entity will review their position, which as we have mentioned is considered a reward for the aggressor and an encouragement to continue the aggression.

Pakistan, Malaysia Urged To Withdraw From Somalia

LD1210144093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution sent messages to President Wasim Sajjad of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and King Shah Azlan of Malaysia calling upon them to take the initiative and withdraw their forces from sister Somalia. The leader stressed in his messages that there was no excuse for the continued presence of those two Islamic countries in Somalia; for the bloody clashes which ensued with their brothers, the sons of the Somali people; for the continued fighting under the flag of the crusaders; or for participation in spilling blood among Muslim brothers who feel no enmity for one another.

France Criticized for Linking UTA, Pan Am Bombings

LD1210141693 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] A General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation source issued the following statement:

UN Resolution 731 called on the judicial powers in the Great Jamahiriyah to cooperate with the French judicial investigations into the UTA incident. Despite all the cooperation, responsiveness, and flexibility shown by the Libyan judicial powers to the French investigating judge and the continuous positive contacts with the French competent authorities, France still rejects a solution to its problem with Libya which it links with a solution to the Lockerbie issue, although the French demands differ from those made by the countries party to Lockerbie.

France's solidarity with the United States and Britain, and its rejection of a solution to its problem with Libya, reflect an extreme stance which reminds us of solidarity among racist regimes, in addition to being a form of procrastination on the part of France in implementing Resolution 731, indeed, a flagrant violation of it.

Paper Praises Lawyers of Accused Pan Am Bombers

LD1210155793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Oct (JANA)—Today's AL-SHAMS, published here in Tripoli, carries an editorial which says inter alia: The lawyers defending the Libyans who are allegedly suspected of taking part in the downing of the American airliner have been the epitome of the power of the law versus the brutality of power, and have dealt an ominous blow to the Libyan administration at a time when it was desperately trying to find a breakthrough because of its fear for Libyan assets, oil sales, and the flooding of the Libyan market with Western goods, as well as fear of a boycott which brothers and friends would eagerly join.

The daily adds: Such a fear is at the expense of the law, the truth, human beings, [word indistinct] and human values. The lawyers, however, said clearly and convincingly, in such a way that has silenced every other preacher, that the law is not the slave of force nor should it follow whims or try to please and appease others.

Those lawyers did not want to set a precedence whereby a country which has been asked to hand over its nationals to a foreign country with which it has no relations, treaty or binding agreement has to do so. They want to look after the interest of their clients, who will not receive a fair and impartial trial in the hands of colonial powers, a matter which has been categorically rejected by those lawyers who have lobbied Libya not to intervene and to leave the matter in its correct legal framework.

Report Views al-Qadhdhafi's Foreign, Domestic Policies

Part One

NC1010080493 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 27 Sep 93 p 4

["Part One" of a three-part report by Muwaffaq Madani on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's foreign, domestic policies: "First of September"]

[Excerpts] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pulled his gun and was about to fire at King Husayn of Jordan. But [late Egyptian President] Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir held back the young Libyan revolutionary, took the gun from him, and restored order to the Arab meeting that was held following the bloody clashes, of what was later dubbed Black September [1970], between the Jordanian regime and the Palestinian organizations. The PLO left Jordan after the clashes, with deep wounds to nurse.

Al-Qadhdhafi, in the eyes of those who have come to deal with his revolution over the past 24 years, embodied the big dreams of the seventies. But the nineties saw him caught between a rock and a hard place, grappling with reality.

Those who once were among his supporters say that al-Qadhdhafi is surrounded by unjust realities due to his regime's past, an unfavorable Arab situation, and biased resolutions by the UN Security Council. Al-Qadhdhafi has been, and is, locked in a war with the West and a succession of U.S. Administrations.

Despite all that, Palestinian dissidents—those opposing the Gaza-Jericho plan signed by 'Arafat and Rabin at the White House last Monday [13 September]—look upon Libya as sanctuary. Despite their knowledge that Libya is under blockade and is seeking rapprochement with Washington, and even with Tel Aviv, to get out of that blockade, Palestinian dissidents have asked Libya to embrace opposition to the peace settlement being imposed on the Arab world.

George Habash [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP] and Nayif Hawatimah [secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP] have asked a beleaguered al-Qadhdhafi whether he is ready to turn Tripoli once more into a capital of Arab rejectionism. Both Habash and Hawatimah plan to break away from the 'Arafat-led PLO and establish a rival organization. The two men wish to establish a Palestinian-Arab rejectionist alliance comprising the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestinian Salvation Front, and the Hamas Movement. Palestinian dissidents wish to hold a National Palestinian conference in Tripoli under the sponsorship of al-Qadhdhafi. The conference would then call for Palestinian elections in the occupied Arab territories as well as abroad in order to form a Palestinian leadership supplanting that of the PLO.

The dissident Palestinians see their action as justified by 'Arafat's signing of an agreement that negates the charter of the Palestinian revolution, which refuses to recognize Israel and calls for its destruction through military struggle.

The dissidents believe that the Palestinian leadership, by abandoning that charter, have lost their legitimacy and that they, the dissidents who are still faithful to the charter, should emerge as the lawful representatives of the people.

Some anti-'Arafat Palestinians were enthusiastic about the move by Habash and Hawatimah, hoping that it would result in the establishment of a Palestinian and Arab movement opposing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

However, one Palestinian leader has interpreted al-Qadhdhafi's willingness to receive Palestinian dissidents not as signalling Libyan commitment to its known principles but as indicating al-Qadhdhafi's need for leverage to use against Israel, the West, and the United States in his effort to end the sanctions the UN Security Council imposed on Libya 18 months ago, in March 1992 to be exact.

Therefore, some Palestinians are doubtful that al-Qadhdhafi, once a man with big dreams concerning the Palestinian issue, still feels the same way as he did on that day, following Black September, when he was about to shoot King Husayn.

It is a new ball game in Libya, a country abandoned by its fellow Arabs as it faces a blockade imposed by the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Since the blockade was imposed by the Security Council 18 months ago, the [Libyan] revolution has sought to secure all resources and conditions to prolong the regime's life. The battle currently is domestic and is being fought in defense of the regime and the revolution, now that the battle fought by the regime and revolution to expand their influence abroad has come to an end. It is said that al-Qadhdhafi has begun to focus on his sources of power in order to prolong his regime's life, as the United States is paving the way for launching a new war against him through the international legitimacy. For instance, the Libyan Jamahiriyah has transferred its funds from Western Banks and financial establishments and deposited them in the Gulf banks. It has secured the necessary legal cover to safeguard these enormous funds from any Western measure to freeze them, as the West did with the Iranian and Iraqi and other assets abroad.

The Libyans believe that their funds abroad are safe and secure. Two years ago, al-Qadhdhafi himself confined the approximately $200 million annual oil revenue [figure as published] in hard currencies, specifically U.S. dollars, in secret coffers. No Libyan circles are allowed to cash U.S. dollars in Libya or abroad. Al- Qadhdhafi insured that these funds cannot be used without a decision by the Libyan Central Bank. Since the Central

Bank acts according to orders of officials who are connected to political decisionmaking, headed by al-Qadhdhafi, this means that the financial card is in his hand. Al-Qadhdhafi, as well-informed sources say, realizes that the Libyan funds in his hands are the key to his steadfastness in confronting eventualities and withstanding the blockade of his regime.

Money, the Arabic saying goes, should be saved for a rainy day. The Libyan Jamahiriyah still expects to be a military target for Western countries seeking to remove al-Qadhdhafi by force, as Bush said on the eve of imposing the blockade on Libya. By pursuing austerity measures and keeping the funds in the hands of al-Qadhdhafi, Libya will keep enormous financial reserves to withstand difficult times. Some people believe it is wise of al-Qadhdhafi to do this should the embargo and blockade continue and develop into a boycott by the West of the Libyan oil. The financial reserves being saved annually in secret and well-guarded coffers would help the regime to prolong the Libyan people's steadfastness and to confront eventualities.

The second step that al-Qadhdhafi took to help him withstand the blockade and prolong his regime's life was to turn the Revolutionary Committees, which consist of more than 18,000 Libyan citizens and which were formed in accordance with the "Green Book" ideas as popular bases supporting the regime, were turned after the blockade into revolutionary guards to protect the regime. In addition, the military situation in the Libyan Jamahiriyah has entered a stage of militarization: The almost dissolved Libyan army has been turned into a popular army. Senior officers in the Libyan army, primarily Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis have no work to do and they stay at home or in their offices more than in military barracks. Militarizing the army, the people, and the Revolutionary Committees is the only means that al-Qadhdhafi has found to protect himself and to help him confront any military action by the United States, the Western alliance, or the opposition Libyan militia abroad, who have prepared an army called "The Army of the Liberation of Libya." It was disclosed that this army was trained in Dallas [as transliterated] in the United States when the opponents declared that they had organized this army to overthrow the al-Qadhdhafi regime, which is a U.S. goal. [passage omitted]

Part Two

NC1010085593 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 3

["Part Two" of a three-part report by Muwaffaq Madani on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's foreign, domestic policies: "First of September]

[Excerpts] Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has therefore faced a Western siege of the Libyan Jamahiriyah since the start of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 730 in the spring of 1992—that is, 18 months ago—with a number of measures.

The most prominent of these measures was the transfer of the Jamahiriyah's financial reserves to neutral Gulf Arab states. This measure was bolstered by other measures to avoid having them frozen by Western countries as they did with Iranian and Iraqi funds. Other measures taken included saving the annual income from Libyan oil reserves estimated at $200 million, restricting the movement of these funds to the Libyan Central Bank and the political leadership, and turning the army into the protector of the "regime" in addition to turning 18,000 members of the revolutionary committees into a paramilitary popular force to prevent any Western military penetration of the Jamahiriyah, as such a penetration would immediately collide with the armed Libyan masses which have been prepared for an all-out popular confrontation over all Libyan territory. This means drowning any invasion of Libya in the quagmire of the population, which carries all types of weapons and includes the army, the revolutionary committees, and the loyal and allied tribes.

Other important measures have been taken with regard to the Libyan opposition's attempts to penetrate the existing regime, either through a military coup against it or through an internal division between the former Libyan provinces and their main cities, such as Tripoli and Banghazi, or between the Libyan tribes that play a principal role either as supporters or opponents of the regime.

Those well versed in the internal Libyan situation say that al-Qadhdhafi, who has almost sole power over Libyan affairs and who has turned the people into an army, is also trying to get "power of control over the internal Libyan situation to confront the eventualities he is expecting from the international escalation against the Jamahiriyah. [no closing quotation marks as published]

According to those well informed about the Libyan situation, the main Libyan cities, especially Tripoli and Banghazi, harbor the seeds of hostility to the Libyan regime due to the hegemony of the Libyan traders and rich people over these cities.

These classes constitute one of the strong social groups that have links with the former royal regime of Idris al-Sanusi or with the Libyan opposition forces abroad. Consequently, these cities are strong candidates to be the starting point for any antiregime movement and for any penetration of it, in view of the links that some higher Libyan social classes have with the opposition abroad, which in turn wants these main cities to play a basic role in any attempt to penetrate the existing regime.

Another factor that is graver has to be added to this one. This factor is Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime's suspicions of the role played by some of the Arab communities inside the Libyan Jamahiriyah which might have been penetrated by foreign and Arab intelligence services belonging to regimes whose role and regional tasks, especially regarding his political regime, are discomforting for al- Qadhdhafi. These Libyan suspicions raise the possibility that some Egyptian and Tunisian workers—the largest Arab communities in Libya—have been penetrated by intelligence services hostile to him. Therefore, President al-Qadhdhafi's organs have placed these Arab as well as foreign communities under strict observation in case these communities were trained abroad to be a Trojan horse that will help pounce on the regime when the green light is given.

All these elements which constitute the social structure of the Libyan situation or which are a part of this structure have prompted the al-Qadhdhafi regime, according to those with good knowledge of its internal situation, to take precautionary measures that focus on isolating the former Libyan provinces, especially the cities such as Tripoli and Banghazi, in what was called "dispersal" [tanathur].

The dispersal measure in Libya's society necessitated the establishment of around 150 "communes" all over the Jamahiriyah. Each one of these 150 dispersed Libyan communes has its own calculations, concepts, and roles that take into consideration the commune's geographical position and its tribal structure.

This means that tribal conflicts in Libyan society constitute a balance of power in the situation that the Jamahiriyah is facing as a result of the siege imposed on it and the expected consequences.

Al-Qadhdhafi and the other members of the present regime are relying on a tribal alliance favorable to them in this internal balance, and this is the basis for the dispersal process. Libyan society has turned into 150 communes whose purpose is to protect the regime from any eventuality aiming to topple it, either from within or outside the country.

Regardless of the conditions of the Libyan president's regime, its internal and external stands, and its consequences for the Libyan people, both supporters and opponents, the Libyan differences as well as their struggles are an existing and essential element in this people's makeup.

Regardless of whether al-Qadhdhafi is the top authority in the Libyan Jamahiriyah or not, there are known Libyan tribes who do not want to see Libya's government controlled by other tribes which now support the current regime or by al-Qadhdhafi himself. These tribes are still sympathetic to the royal regime that was brought down by the free officers' coup in the 1970s.

These informed sources say that al-Qadhdhafi's control of funds at home and abroad, his direct hegemony of the Army and the well-prepared revolutionary committees, and the partitioning of the Libyan community into 150 communes supported by allied Libyan tribes are the main factors that protect the regime against the blockade and its possibilities, and secure the regime's long life. [passage omitted]

When the siege was imposed on Libya, al-Qadhdhafi hinted to the West that he might take radical Islamic options. In what appeared to be a threat, he expressed readiness to turn his regime into a second Fatimid Islamic caliphate [the first Fatimid chaliphate founded Cairo as its capital in 358-969, and ruled a region extending from Palestine to Tunisia].

It appeared that al-Qadhdhafi, with this threat, wanted to suggest to the Western forces which are hostile to the Iranian revolution that he might be compelled to ally himself with that revolution and launch a campaign against the West, which he said is leading a new crusade against the Arabs and Muslims.

During the blockade, therefore, al-Qadhdhafi kept inviting fundamentalist Islamic movements and encouraging them to use Libya as a base for their activity in the Arab and Islamic worlds against the unjust Christian West!

But even with his declared readiness to support the Islamic movements in Tunisia and Algeria, Al-Qadhdhafi cannot adopt them as he did with the Nasirite and pan-Arab movements after the death of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. This is because the extremist Islamists are viciously confronting the regime of President Husni Mubarak—a mediatory regime on which al-Qadhdhafi is depending to curb the enmity of the West, especially the United States, toward his political authority.

The Libyan regime still holds the card of Islamic fundamentalism and support for the Palestinians and the Arabs who reject the Middle East settlement in order to pressure the West into lifting the blockade, striking Libya from the list of countries supporting terrorism, and dropping the U.S. slogan of overthrowing Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's authority.

The Islamic fundamentalists, like the rejectionists of the peace talks, attach importance to these hints that al-Qadhdhafi makes every now and then.

But al-Qadhdhafi's political movement depends on the regime of President Husni Mubarak, one of the Arab regimes most hostile to Iran and the most prominent confronter of the hardline fundamentalist Islamic trends.

Some people believe that al-Qadhdhafi, while under siege, accepts Egypt's guidance more than that of any other Arab or Islamic party in the region. The evidence, some believe, is that Mubarak's regime played a decisive role in persuading al-Qadhdhafi not to be the spearhead of opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Madrid and Washington.

Knowledgeable people, therefore, say that al-Qadhdhafi responded to the Egyptian regime's advice to hold a dialogue with the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton through rapprochement with Israel.

These knowledgeable people say that the Mubarak regime urged al-Qadhdhafi to take a step toward recognition of Israel, as this would end the crisis and the confrontation between Libya and the United States.

It is said that the Egyptian authorities logistically facilitated the passage of the Libyan pilgrims to Jerusalem. They secured their movement from Libyan territory to occupied Jerusalem on 'Id al-Adha.

According to these people, al-Qadhdhafi intended to send some 1,000 pilgrims to Jerusalem under the pretext that they had not been allowed to make the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Israel would then help him improve his relations with the United States.

But al-Qadhdhafi dispatched only a few dozens of pilgrims, all of whom were said to be Libyan intelligence men, which reflected confusion and shocked the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also did not satisfy Israel and the United States. That step reflected negatively on the besieged al-Qadhdhafi. The Libyan pilgrimage failed to open the closed American door, and it harmed pro-Libya Arab and Islamic sentiments.

Part Three

NC1010112593 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 29 Sep 93 p 4

["Part Three" of three-part report by Muwaffaq Madani on leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's foreign, domestic policies: "First of September"]

[Text] The Libyan authorities have shown interest in gathering detailed information on the Libyan opposition movement abroad, particularly in view of reports by world media that the Libyan Liberation Army is undergoing training in the United States. The conclusion drawn from these reports is that this Libyan army or militia consists of some 2,000 members.

However, the authorities in Libya do not rule out the possibility that this Libyan opposition militia, being trained in Dallas [as transliterated], might be the spearhead or the nucleus for a military invasion by the United States and Western countries. Therefore, al-Qadhdhafi has deployed guards on a wide scale along the lenghty Libyan coast to repel the infiltration that might occur abruptly.

Moreover, the Jamahiriyah has fears about its land borders with Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia, who have huge communities of workers in Libya. The Egyptian community alone amounts to one million.

These land borders, in addition to the long coast, represent an area across which a surprise invasion might infiltrate.

Al-Qadhdhafi's devotees are reassured about the Arab Maghreb Union, which needs Libyan support. The maintainance of an intact Libyan regime guarantees the necessary balance within the existing Maghreb Union.

Moreover, the arrangements involved in the present settlement in the Middle East might not be at the expense of the Arab Maghreb, including Libya. If what is sought is to use the impetus of that setlement to change the existing conditions in Libya, al-Qadhdhafi might commit suicide with his regime if he feels that there is a serious attempt to overthrow him. He will either lead the Arab and Islamic rejectionist movement or carry out his repeated threat to burn the Libyan oilfields to deprive the West of his oil. This is the price the world might have to pay if it decides to engage in an Armageddon with the existing regime.

According to people close to him, al-Qadhdhafi is aware of the weak spot in his major rival, the United States—an indebted empire whose heavy debts make it hard for it to play the role of the absolute master of the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi wagers on the U.S. Administration's preoccupation with these domestic problems. Moreover, the United States needs co-financiers in the world.

The existing regime tried to offer Washington enormous financial help when it conveyed to Clinton's administration that Libya was willing to be the United States' financial partner by providing $30 billion in investments for U.S. firms, renouncing terrorism, and showing willingness to cooperate with the West in combating terrorism with the connections available to it and the information it has about world organizations, parties, and secret movements that are in conflict with the U.S. policy and Western interests worldwide.

People who know the Libyan regime say that financial partners will also be partners in the political decisionmaking process.

Described by Western media as "a political maniac", al-Qadhdhafi has maintained his regime for 24 years, surviving three U.S. attempts to overthrow him by force, including the CIA's failed attempt to assassinate him in what came to be known as the "rose" plan to assassinate the rebellious anti-West colonel.

However, al-Qadhdhafi and the men in his regime believe they are targeted due to their stand on the Arab-Israeli settlement, because the Lockerbie file was opened after the commencement of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Madrid and escalated with the progress of each successive round.

From that day on, al-Qadhdhafi realized that he was the target in the course of the negotiations, according to informed sources. Therefore, he monopolized authority, leaving out "the brothers" who participated with him in the Libyan revolution 24 years ago. The so-called second man, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, is almost dismissed from official activities and decisionmaking centers because of what was explained as differences of opinion with al-Qadhdhafi over the handling of the Lockerbie issue. Jallud calls on al-Qadhdhafi to jump ahead and turn Libya into a springboard for anyone who wants to fight the United States regardless of the price involved, and even if it is alone. He believes that Libya will not regret that.

Jallud is engaging in this dispute with al-Qadhdhafi, forging with this new challenge toward a confrontation which Libya has initiated by further deepening its clash with the West, since the Arab and Muslim worlds are frustrated and are looking for a springboard from where they can launch their confrontation with Western and Israeli regional hegemony. Jallud believes that the present regime cannot compromise its existence and its basic principles by giving in to Western demands that will cause its overthrow later as part of arrangements to be imposed on the region. The Iraqi example is plain to see and Libya has to learn from it to see how to act vis-a-vis the embargo, which might result in severe punishment.

Brigadier General Abu-Bakr Yunus—who was nominated by the Libyan opposition abroad to take charge in what was called "the third option" in the conflict with al-Qadhdhafi—calls on the regime to reconsider its positions and line of action. It is said that he is calling for backing down on the existing jamahiriyah regime that depends on the authority of the revolutionary committees. The committees are led by Muhammad al-Majdhub, al-Qadhdhafi's devotee who actively mobilizes the masses nationwide to demonstrate their loyalty to the regime and get ready for the great battle with the West and the Libyan opposition, should the latter try to infiltrate the Jamahiriyah through whatever gap. According to sources, Yunus believes that the revolution has to adjust its position to the new world developments and the existing world order which the United States leads under the pretext of democracy, human rights, and the market economy. He believes that the revolution should renounce the slogan of being a revolution inside and outside, a slogan that imposes certain handicaps on its position. He suggests that Libya should return to the concept of a democratic republic just like other world states, a concept that agrees with Western notions and demands.

Judging by this information, we might say that Yunus represents a real advocate who calls for an ordinary Libyan state, according to the classic meaning of "state." He calls also for putting an end to the romanticization which al-Qadhdhafi promoted within the framework of his Third Islamic theory or the "Green Book." The Libyan state that he suggests would be based on a parliament elected by the people.

The blockade left the free officers with different opinions and attitudes concerning Libya's future. But all of Libya's influential officials see the Lockerbie issue as a gimmick, one whose final goal is to help the pro-Western Libyan opposition to take over.

Al-Qadhdhafi has organized successive operations to liquidate his opponents, whom he calls "stray dogs." The favorite targets of liquidations are opponents who belong to Libyan tribes that have never, and will never, be loyal to him. Careful to maintain his power base, al-Qadhdhafi eschews confrontation with other "stray dogs" who belong to loyal tribes, for fear of antagonizing them.

Well-informed sources say that the regime is eager to stay ahead of the game. Confronted with the blockade, the regime is not relaxing its grip on power. It is whipping up patriotic sentiment in anticipation of any escalation in sanctions or possible military action against it. Daily efforts to keep both the army and the revolutionary committees in a state of revolutionary ardor are central to al-Qadhdhafi's scheme.

It is rare occurrence for a visitor to Libya to see a key official or a close associate of al-Qadhdhafi relaxing in his office. Libyan officials are working on several fronts to save their regime. Libya is in touch with Arab and foreign capitals. It has even expressed eagerness to open a dialogue with Clinton's administration. Ambassador 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi has come up with successive proposals to start a dialogue with the United States. These proposals have also been conveyed to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, al-Qadhdhafi and his regime have expressed a desire to help the U.S. President tackle the U.S. domestic economic crisis. Libyan officials proposed to open their country to U.S. investment as a prelude to an al-Qadhdhafi-Clinton dialogue.

On the domestic level, senior Libyan officials are constantly on the stump, touring Libyan towns to rally support for the regime. Muhammad al-Majdhub, who is in charge of the revolutionary committees, is touring towns and meeting with various tribes, urging the Libyans to protect their country against military adventures and maintain a united home front.

As opponents seek to bring down the Libyan regime, the latter is trying to consolidate the home front. Al-Qadhdhafi is determined to protect himself from domestic, as well as foreign, threats.

Well-informed sources believe that al-Qadhdhafi is a changed man. Gone are the fiery revolutionary speeches that have been his trademark for the past 25 years. He now calls for dialogues and a place for his country in the very international order that is trying to oust him. At least, he is reassured by Western statements ruling out any military action against him on the scale of Desert Storm. The circumstances are not conducive for a military action on such a scale. This is why the Libyan regime—once with big dreams but currently faced with unjust realities for which it may or may not be responsible—aspires for continued longevity. With political acumen, it may actually survive the Western trap.

Al-Qadhdhafi does not seem quite convinced with the arguments of his number two, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who wants Libya to take the final leap into the unknown and turn itself into a bastion for opposition to U.S. policy, Middle Eastern as well as international. Jallud wants Libya to be a sanctuary for all those who want to oppose the United States. Nor is al-Qadhdhafi partial to the idea promoted by Abu-Bakr Yunus and many opponents, of replacing his one-man rule with a parliamentary system, one that will bring about realistic changes and usher in the end of a revolution that outlived its own dreams.

Morocco

New Parliament Opens Fall Session 8 Oct

LD0810152893 Rabat MAP in English 1300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 8 (MAP)—The newly-elected parliament will open this Friday the fall session of the first legislative year. Under Article 38 of the constitution, the king opens the first session on the second Friday of October. The sovereign will, on the occasion, deliver a speech.

The amended constitution adopted by referendum in September 1992 grants the House of Representatives important prerogatives. Among the new provisions of the constitution, there is the establishment of "inquiry commissions within the House of Representatives" "to pick up elements of information about determined facts". The commissions' findings are submitted to the House of Representatives.

The 333 members of the parliament were elected for a six-year term. Two thirds of them (222) were elected at direct universal suffrage on June 25 while the remaining one third (111) was chosen at indirect suffrage on September 17.

During the 1993-1994 legislature, the House will have to contribute to materialize development in Morocco which opted for privatization, encouraging the private intiative and overhaul public institutions.

Here follows the table of parties represented at the parliament and the number of seats they gleaned:

—The Entente Alliance	154
Constitutional Union (UC)	54
Popular Movement (MP)	51
National Popular Movement (MNP)	25
National Democrat Party (PND)	24
—Unity Alliance	115
Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP)	52
Istiqlal Party (PI)	50
Party for Progress And Socialism (PPS)	11
Organisation for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP)	2
—Other Political Parties	54
National Rally of Independents (RNI)	41
Party of Choura and Istiqlal	9
Party of Action	2
Representatives With No Political Obedience	2
—Trade Unions	10
Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT)	4
Moroccan Labor Union (UMT)	3
General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM)	2
PPS Trade Union	1

King on Plan To Form Government

LD0810193693 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Speech by King Hassan II to inaugural session of new Moroccan parliament in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, prayers and peace be on our master Muhammad, his family, and his companions.

Honorable deputies, we welcome those of you who are new, and the two new women among you. We also congratulate those who are here for the second time, thus demonstrating that the trust of their electors has been in place regarding their work.

I will not speak for long, because time should be given to work and to mobilization for work. [passage omitted] Time is short and opportunities could be lost. I would like you to know that problems and knowledge are without boundaries. You must not be confused between what is urgent and what can be deferred, between what is important and what is more important. An opportunity could easily be lost, which means that we have to take advantage of any opportunity open to us so as to push our country ever forward. [passage omitted]

Honorable gentlemen, I will not keep this a secret from you: I used to dream at the end of last year of setting up a national government in which all the members of the Moroccan political community would meet and work. However, circumstances and successive elections in less than a year—the referendum, municipal and rural councils, direct elections and indirect elections—all these events made nerves tense and voices get louder, and here I am seeing in front of me a Democratic Bloc on one side and a National Accord on the other.

Yes, this is what is being said and written. However, as far as I am concerned, you are all my sons, you are all citizens and you are all soldiers of this country, and should circumstances require it, I am sure that you would stand as one [applause], mobilized to defend its sacred things and territorial unity.

So, what is the plan of action? This plan is divided in two parts. One depends on you. You are called on, gentlemen, to elect your speaker and your bureau, to form your committees and groups. Once this is done—and I hope that this will not take more than one week or 10 days—then, it will be my turn, as stipulated by the Constitution, to summon the members of the Bloc, then, the members of the Accord, to discuss with them whether they want to be part of the government.

Should any one of them want to take part in the government, then he will be called on to submit his program and introduce himself to us. After that, we will appoint the prime minister, who will then come before you, gentlemen, for your approval.

If you give him your confidence, he will lead the government forward and its members from the Bloc or the

Accord. If you do not give him your confidence, or you give it to him by introducing some reforms or by amending some of its points, he will still proceed in accordance with everybody's wishes. [sentence as heard]

Thus you see, honorable members, that the role of everyone is crystal clear and requires from us to work in earnest, seriously, and continuously. [passage omitted]

New Parliamentary Group Formed

LD1110142593 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 11 (MAP)—The Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS) has for the first time formed a parliamentary group dubbed "the Renewal and Progress Group".

As reported by the party's dailies, the chairmanship of the group was entrusted to Ismail Alaoui, member of the PPS political bureau.

The PPS which had only two MPs in the former House of Representatives is now represented by twelve MPs, the required number by the house internal regulations to form a parliamentary group.

The Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) has also named the chairman of its group in the person of Fathallah Oualalou.

The fall session of the house of representatives was inaugurated Friday by King Hassan II.

House Speaker Elected

LD1210162093 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 12 (MAP)—Members of the House of Representatives elected Monday Afternoon Jalal Essaid speaker for a three-year term.

Essaid, from the Constitutional Union "UC" was elected at the secret balloting by 170 votes against 13 for Ismael Alaoui from the Party for Progress and Socialism "PPS".

The new speaker ran for the post under the banner of the National Entente which gathers in addition to the UC, the Popular Movement "MP", the National Democrat Party "PND" and the National Popular Movement "MNP".

Essaid was born in 1938. He holds a doctorate in criminal sciences and teaches at the law college of Rabat. In 1974, he was appointed secretary of state for housing, town planning, tourism and environment. From 1977 to 1992, he was first vice-speaker of the House of Representatives.

Morocco Denies Ending Talks With Polisario

LD1110120193 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, 11 Oct (MAP)—Yesterday, Bachir Mustapha Sayed claimed in a statement to an Algerian newspaper that Morocco had asked for "negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro], due to be held this week in New York, to be postponed until 20 October and to be held in Geneva instead of in New York."

Replying to a question from APS, a Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation spokesman expressed extreme surprise at the statement and explained that Morocco had not requested an end to contacts or negotiations, only a change of date and venue. He stressed that most malicious claims had no foundation in truth and hid a premeditated will to mislead.

The ministry spokesman expressed hope that the UN secretary general or his personal representative would give the necessary clarifications to end such malicious reports.

King Receives Message From Iraq's Saddam Husayn

LD1110180593 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] His Highness King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received Mr. Nadim Ahmad al-Yasin, the Iraqi Republic ambassador to Tunisia, who conveyed to his highness a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

His highness's adviser Abdelhadi Boutaleb attended this meeting.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Change in U.S. Somalia Policy

EA1210142793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that Sudan supports efforts by Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi to achieve a peaceful and political solution to the Somali problem without resorting to the escalation of military operations and confrontations. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed Sudan's happiness with the recent change in American policy, which now rules out military confrontation with General Mohamed Farah Aidid.

Yesterday in Addis Ababa the Ethiopian president met Mr. 'Uthman al-Sayyid, Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia, who delivered a verbal note to him from Lt. Gen. Umar al-Bashir.

Paper Urges African Solution

EA1210174093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Oct (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH published here today has said in an editorial that the Somali problem can only be solved by sitting around a table. Africa should supervise a Somali dialogue. The paper said that the African temperament by its nature is not inclined to be under the mandate of anyone, and explained that the structure of the country showed that it was governed by the spirit of tribalism. This should facilitate the task of negotiations in accordance with interests over which no two people could differ.

The paper said that the task assumed by the Ethiopian president should lead to a successful solution, although the road could be long. The paper stressed that the United States should facilitate the task of the goodwill efforts and should be a party interested in giving peace a chance. It should give its blessings to the negotiations, which will ensure the exit of the foreigner from Somalia and the exit of Somalia itself from its human tragedy. It said this could only be possible with the participation of all parties in support of a peaceful solution. The continent in general, and the Horn of Africa in particular, should be the first to be active in this. Ethiopia has its weight among the states of Africa.

The paper added in its editorial that the best reward for Africa from the American side lay in its respect for the resolutions and decisions of African legitimacy to prevent Somalia from sliding back, for the second time, into a civil war or a semi-military occupation. The paper said that Sudan's support for detente in the Somali issue sprang from its conviction about the usefulness of negotiations and dialogue, which it practiced itself [words indistinct]. It pointed out that Somalia was qualified to solve its own problems under the auspices of Africans. The United States should promote the role of dialogue instead of pushing for military reinforcements.

Minister on U.S. 'Campaign' Against Sudan

EA1210163593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, SUNA held its information briefing yesterday. It dealt with the challenges facing Sudan and the dimensions of the U.S. campaign against Sudan. The speaker at the briefing was Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the Presidency of the Republic. He spoke about the U.S. campaign against Sudan based on the pretext of so-called terrorism. [passage omitted]

"Basically it is an issue of cultural rejection, as people say, rejection of a phenomenon emerging in this region in which Sudan represents the warhead. We do not understand why Sudan, which is known as that weakling, that poor thing, that destitute, has suddenly emerged as one of the important states in U.S. policy and strategy. According to purely material reckoning, Sudan is not a mighty state in terms of its economic or military strength. It does not possess naval fleets, armies, aircraft. [sentence as heard] It does not own nuclear warheads or intercontinental ballistic missiles. It does not possess any of these things, but suddenly Sudan has become a very dangerous phenomenon threatening world peace.

"How can Sudan suddenly become an international octopus and unsettling headache for the world? The reality is that the ideological vision and cultural changes inherent in the Sudanese scheme are very disturbing to that arrogant tyrant who does not want any voice to rise above its voice and does not accept any opinion different from its own. It wants everybody to be humbled and belittled, subjected to orders and authority." [passage omitted including announcer summary of following al-Din remarks]

"Your history is a witness to your nature. Even your present is also a witness. The issue is not historical at all. It is an issue of the present. You are the ones who can (?see better) and are always more prepared to destroy hundreds of thousands of people, even millions of human beings, without batting an eyelid or twitching your faces."

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din then touched on a number of issues on which Sudan has firm stands and also on a number of issues which time has proved to be correct. In this regard he referred to the Somali issue and the Gulf War. He added that Sudan did not start hostilities against the West. It has always called for contacts between peoples. We should not be judged on the basis of similar experiences with other peoples. We are a people with our own characteristics and features. From this, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din concluded with a clear fact of U.S. policy at a time when Sudan is attempting to open the doors of dialogue with the aim of removing shortcomings.

"The real target is Islam and the principles inherent in the Sudanese scheme. Sudan is not a threat to international security. Facts confirm this. There isn't a single European, Arab, or African official with whom we have talked who has not expressed surprise at this. Sudan is not a threat to national or international security. Sudan does not violate the principles or concepts connected with [words indistinct]. The people who are spreading destruction, death, and corruption in the world as a whole are the ones who are accusing us. [passage omitted]

"The last four years show that we have been an element of stability in the region, in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Chad." [passage omitted]

"We are not an isolated state, as they like to say. They have come to the conclusion that Sudan is an isolated state, but we are not isolated. We have widespread popular support in this region. We are at the head or apex or forefront of this region. [Words indistinct] hostility to Sudan you will find yourselves in the end confronted by this popular support. [passage omitted]

"But they have always supported tyrants and do not care about peoples. This is what has lost them the support of peoples of the region. From the beginning of time, since the time when there has been a U.S. policy in the region, they have always concentrated.... [al-Din pauses] The Americans think, here is a government, it must be isolated. They say they want to isolate the government but not the Sudanese people but in the end they have realized what the government is: It is the people who go to southern Sudan to defend the land where doctors, professors, ministers, and directors perish. These are the people of Sudan. It is wrong to claim that you will deal with this government and isolate that government. That is misguided. You are bound to fall on slippery ground. This is what will happen. [passage omitted]"

Minister Urges World Bank To Release Loans

EA0910123093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Oct (SUNA)—The state minister for planning and investment, Dr. Muhammad Khayr al-Zubayr, explained that about 180 million dollars were due for the Sudan Government according to the previous loans agreement concluded between Sudan and the World Bank for financing various projects in the country.

He added in a statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI daily newspaper of today that Sudan had held talks with the bank to review obstacles hindering the provision of new loans by the bank for financing some projects at the present time.

He said that although the bank was convinced by the seriousness of Sudan's economic programs, some political and international pressures hampered providing of loans to Sudan. He explained that Sudan was very keen to implement these projects by self-reliance and domestic resources with the priority given to the rehabilitation of the infrastructures and the agricultural sector.

Commentary Examines Effect of Fuel Crisis

EA1110121293 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Station commentary written by al-Zubayr Uthman Ahmad]

[Excerpts] Now that the fuel crisis is over, we must reflect on this experience, from which we can derive some benefit. The people responsible should reflect on it in a manner that will help in dealing better with such crises. Such crises will definitely recur as we rely on importing this strategic commodity under economic conditions of which we are all aware and under a tyrannical world order that uses all methods, legitimate and illegitimate, to pressure those peoples whose policies are based on liberation and refusal to be satellites, and who want to be self-reliant. [passage omitted]

Sudan is better off than many countries of the Third World in our African and Arab areas as well as elsewhere. At least Sudan for the last two years has been relying completely on itself and on its own resources to buy oil from the world markets. At the same time, it is working to exploit and extract what oil reserves it has in order to tear up its oil bills. [passage omitted]

The reality is that the history of the oil crisis did not begin with the national salvation revolution. In fact, if we look objectively we can see that the situation has improved greatly through the use of original methods in distribution, guidance of sales, and priorities laid down by the revolution.

The history of the crisis began with the October war of 1973 and the use of oil as a weapon. The oil bill rose from $1 million to about $500 million a year. From this we can see the size of the problem after the rise of world oil prices.

The anti-Sudan news media, which propagated statements of opposition leaders, were not successful for many reasons, including the fact that similar crises in the past had more adverse effects than this recent one. This one did not extend beyond transport and did not affect the sectors of agriculture, productivity, and strategy, which cannot be neglected. This is due to the revolution's policy on the priorities of increasing production and concern for its input. Moreover, the revolution was not afraid of the effects of this crisis on communications in the capital, notwithstanding its political impact, which can be used to pressure the government. [passage omitted]

The crisis has proved that crises such as this one cannot shake the national salvation revolution because it is a regime with a mission having its own cultural orientation with great objectives and aims. Finally, we must study this crisis in order to learn from it on both the official and popular levels so that everyone bears his responsibility. Only then will such a crisis not affect us and will we not feel its effects. We will come out stronger. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Control Bahr al-Ghazal

EA1210172593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Oct (SUNA)—Major General Muhammad Abd al-Rahim, the commander of Bahr al-Ghazal Military Zone, has said the security situation in Bahr al-Ghazal is very reassuring and that the Armed Forces are in full control of all areas in the state. Maj. Gen. Abd al-Rahim told AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper, published today, that the number of rebels who had surrendered to the state's authorities in the last few months had exceeded 300. They surrendered with all their weapons, and some were now working in the Armed Forces.

He said that the surrendering process was continuing, which showed that the rebels were convinced of the government's seriousness about the establishment of peace. He said that Bahr al-Ghazal State was now implementing its programs and aspired to peace and stability in all parts of the state.

Western Sahara

Polisario Official Hints of Renewed Fighting

LD1010162693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] At Morocco's request, the negotiations—that were scheduled to take place between the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front and Morocco in New York this week—have been postponed to 20 October. According to Mr. Bachir Mustapha Sayed, this postponement and Morocco's continuing impediment to the peace process might lead to the resumption of battles in Western Sahara. Over to you Hocine Bourada.

[Bourada] In an exclusive interview to the Algerian newspaper EL WATAN published today the number two in the Polisario Front held Morocco responsible for impeding peace and did not dismiss the possibility of the resumption of battles in Western Sahara.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed accused Morocco of impeding the preparations for the referendum on self-determination after it opposed the opening, by the head of the UN Commission for Defining the List of Voters, of an independent office in the Saharan city of Laayoune. On the other hand, the Saharan official accused Morocco of not approving the agreement on granting immunity to the assistants in charge of follow-up accompanying the UN Commission.

In reply to a question on the recent cabinet reshuffle characterized by the return of Defense Minister Brahim Ghali, Bachir Mustapha Sayed stated that the Saharan movement was preparing for all possibilities, including war.

GCC Chiefs of Staff Conclude Two-Day Meeting

JN1310103593 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The 11th meeting of the chiefs of staff in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states concluded its work this afternoon under the chairmanship of Staff Major General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

The two-day meeting was attended by His Excellency Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, the Saudi Armed Forces chief of staff; Staff Major General Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, the chief of staff of the Bahraini Defense Force; Staff Major General Muhammad Rashid Shar'an al-Khayarin, the Qatari chief of staff; Staff Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Humayd al-Kalbani, the Omani chief of staff; Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, the Kuwaiti chief of staff; and Staff Major General 'Ubayd Muhammad al-Ka'bi, the deputy chief of staff and head of the Emirian delegation to the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by GCC Secretary General His Excellency Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi; 'Awad Badr al-Shanfari, the GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs; Staff Major General Yusuf Muhammad al-Madani, the chairman of the GCC Military Committee; members of the GCC military delegations taking part in the Abu Dhabi event, and the ambassadors of the GCC member states in the United Arab Emirates.

The conferees discussed a host of issues pertaining to military coordination and cooperation among GCC members.

Saudi Arabia

Afghan President Rabbani Arrives for Visit

LD1010181393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Borhanoddin Rabbani, the leader of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

[Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto at 1530 GMT on 10 October adds: "Under a decree by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi will be acting president during the president's visit to Saudi Arabia."]

Fahd Honors Rabbani, Delegation

LD1110162493 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Jeddah, Oct 11, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held last night here a dinner party in honor of visiting Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the accompanying delegation.

The dinner party was attended by Prince Sa'ud Bin-Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, Prince Fahd Bin-Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Prince Majad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Mecca region, Prince Mamdauh Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the president of the strategic studies bureau, Prince 'Abd-al-Ilah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Prince Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy interior minister, and a number of princes and senior officials.

Meanwhile, the monarch held a meeting here last night with Rabbani.

On the Saudi side the meeting was attended by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, Prince Majad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Mecca region, Prince Turki al-Faysal, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and member of the cabinet, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Bin-Ahmad al-Wasi, the advisor at the royal court, Dr Mahmud al-Safar, the minister of pilgrimage, and Muhammad al-Utibi, the kingdom's ambassador to Afghanistan.

On the Afghan side the meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Minister of Guidance and Endowments Arslan Mowlawi Rahmani, Minister of Cities Reconstruction Ahmad Shah Ahmad, Minister of Communications Mohammad Amin Waqqad, Minister of Education Mowlawi Jalilollah Mowlawizadeh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Najibollah Lafra'i, Minister of State Moula Sami'ollah and Afghan Ambassador to the Kingdom Shir 'Alem Hakmal.

Council of Ministers Holds Weekly Meeting

LD1110212593 Riyadh SPA in English 1948 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Oct 11, SPA—The Council of Ministers held its weekly regular session at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Monday [11 October] afternoon under the chairmanship of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said the council reviewed reports on the most important Arab, Islamic and international developments during the last few days and followed up moral and material support being provided by the Kingdom for some of the Islamic world's states whose people fell victims to wars and natural disasters.

The council decided that such assistances would continue for Bosnian and Somali people in particular to enable them in facing up their painful plights over the past years.

In this context, al-Sha'ir said King Fahd informed the cabinet on efforts that are being exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to save what could be saved in various parts of the Islamic world and the positive results of these efforts.

On the other hand, the king briefed the council on the outcome of his meetings with senior guests of the Kingdom during the last few days including his meeting with the Afghan president and his accompanying delegation on Sunday. The Saudi monarch termed his talks with the Afghan leader as "frank and rational" in the common framework of Islamic bonds and fraternal feelings.

The king stressed his keenness for prosperity, security and stability of the Afghan Moslem people.

The king said they held identical views on all matters, which had been raised during his meeting with the Afghan president.

King Fahd also explained the contents of a message he had received from U.S. President Bill Clinton which was handed over to him by the U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena and highlighted the depth of the Saudi/US ties which have been cemented over years on bases of mutual respect and the common interests of the two countries besides the distinguished relations between the Saudi monarch and President Clinton. [passage omitted]

New Chairman for General Prosecution Board Named

LD0710223993 Riyadh SPA in English 1909 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Jeddah, Oct 7, SPA—A royal decree has been issued appointing Muhammad Bin-Sulayman al-Muhawass as chairman of the General Prosecution and Investigation Board with excellent rank.

Yemen

Al-Bid Addresses Rally on Revolution Anniversary

JN1210224793 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpts] To mark the 30th anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution, a massive popular rally was held at the (al-Tala) District in the Lahij Governorate this morning. It was attended by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council; Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council; several brother ministers; members of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress; leaders of several political parties and popular organizations; Lahij Governor brother Salah (?al-Ashyab); and several officials attended the rally.

After Koranic verses were recited, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, delivered a speech in which he congratulated the people in the name of the Presidential Council on the Yemeni September and October revolution. [passage omitted]

He also urged the ruling coalition to shoulder its responsibility toward the causes of the people and the homeland, foremost of which are the problems of living conditions which will be solved only through dealing with economic, social, and educational issues and creating new job opportunities.

The vice chairman of the Presidential Council also urged the House of Representatives to put an end to the deteriorating national currency, create more investment opportunities, and draw up development plans and programs to carry them out. He stressed the need for the Presidential Council to face up to its responsibility and play its control and strategic role, explaining that the role of the Presidential Council does not lie in distributing presents but in focusing on ways of promoting national economy, security, and defense; strengthening the pillars of unity and democracy; reinforcing the experience of coalition; and building a modern democratic and prosperous state.

Al-Bid then referred to the difficulties facing the coalition government, stressing the importance of overcoming these difficulties through more unified action and efforts to start a joint action with all parties, which are outside the authority.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid called on the people's masses to adhere to the goals of the revolution and to work to apply the framework followed by the martyrs in their struggle against colonialism and the imam. He then touched on the Arab situation, referring to the importance of reviewing the revolutionary experience and the national experiences of each country and evaluating and benefiting from them. He added that the strength of the Palestinians lies in their national unity.

Concluding, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid reiterated his congratulations to the people's masses on this great occasion, wishing them success and also wishing the Yemeni homeland every progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Details Status of UN Talks

JN1110082393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said that the file on Iraqi armament, which is under negotiation with the United Nations, will be closed for good if an understanding is reached on the principle of permanent monitoring between Iraq and the United Nations. Talks on this point will take place in New York on 15 November.

In a statement to our political affairs correspondent upon arrival in Amman from the United States en route to Baghdad, al-Sahhaf added:

[Begin recording] Advanced stages were reached on this issue. In short, the file on ballistic missiles is considered closed. The file on nuclear research is considered fully closed. As for the file on chemical weapons, they [UN inspectors] have the full picture. They asked for two weeks or probably a little more to scrutinize the information provided them by the Iraqi side during the second round of talks held recently in Baghdad. As for biological research, the file is considered completely closed. This means that the information they got is complete and indicates that Iraq has a clean file on this issue.

From the technical point of view, and according to the legal interpretation of Section C of Resolution 687, which includes Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, the joint march of Iraq and the Security Council Special Commission is considered to be in its final stage. Therefore, the Special Commission and Ambassador [commission head Rolf] Ekeus should present a clear report to the Security Council on what I told you so it will implement its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22. Paragraph 22 says: If Iraq fulfills its commitments, according to the paragraphs I already mentioned, the Security Council should lift the sanctions or the boycott imposed on the export of all Iraqi goods and the boycott on transactions [preceding word in English] concerning these exports. This means lifting economic sanctions. We hope that the Security Council will do that within the framework of a deal that will be concluded soon, God willing. [end recording]

Turkey's Sezgin Departs, Comments on Visit

TA1110101293 Nicosia Bayrak Radio in Turkish 1630 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Turkey's former Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the fourth day of his Iraqi tour. Sezgin conveyed Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's message to Husayn.

Sezgin departed for Jordan's capital Amman after having concluded his visit in Iraq. In a news conference in Amman, Sezgin stated that bilateral and regional issues were discussed during his contacts in Iraq. Sezgin said that during his contacts he expressed Turkey's respect for Iraq's territorial integrity and stressed the importance Turkey gives to the territorial integrity of Iraq—Turkey's friend, brother, and neighbor. Sezgin remarked that Iraq has to make its peace with the world if it wants to return to its place in the international world.

Sezgin said that Iraq has a right in asking the world to show more sensitivity to the economic embargo. Saying that during his contacts he explained to Iraqi authorities the necessity to abide by the UN Security Council resolutions, Sezgin added that they in turn indicated that the majority of the UN Security Council resolutions were being implemented and that the rest would be implemented as quick and as soon as possible.

Pointing out that he conveyed Husayn a message from Demirel, Sezgin said that Demirel expresses Turkey's respect for Iraq's undivided entity in his message as well as pointing out that it has always defended Iraq's territorial integrity.

Explaining that Husayn was very happy to receive Demirel's message, Sezgin added that Husayn wished for a restart of his pre-1980 work relations with Demirel.

Sezgin and the delegation accompanying him will be returning to Turkey tomorrow.

Baghdad PLO Urges 'Objective' Assessment of Accord

JN0710191493 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] When we say and stress that the declaration of principles on the transitional self-rule arrangements is—for us, the way we see, understand, and want it, and as the text of the agreement indicates—no more than a first step along the path toward building an independent Palestinian state, we fully mean what we say. We also seek to make it truly so. This must be so, and there is no way it can be otherwise.

A careful, slow reading of the agreement without deliberately dropping its most important items—the transitional concept, for example, which is dropped by some people for the sole purpose of making the agreement appear as if it concerns a limited self-rule—clarifies to us the road to an independent Palestinian state. This is not an alleged interpretation of the text. We see the items of the text, which constitute a general declaration of principles, as an issue that concerns a conflict of negotiations that is inevitable within the context of negotiations. On this basis, each negotiating party will present its understanding and interpretation of the agreement. Hence, the contradictory statements of the two parties to the agreement and the negotiations. But why should we take the Israeli statements seriously, give them more credibility, and deem them the only logical explanation, while deliberately ignoring the statements made by the Palestinian side and constantly casting doubt on their credibility?

Once again, what we are asking for here is only an objective examination of Palestinian political pronouncements in this regard. This clearly means that we are not against the right to opposition, and we can never confiscate this right. However, those people who want to exercise this right should do so in an objective manner that supports their stand. This will make it possible for us to look at these stands and deal with them seriously. Otherwise, why don't they deal with the Palestinian interpretation of the agreement and support this interpretation to achieve its objectives in full? The Palestinian side is pressing ahead to achieve these objectives. We truly hope that our call will be heeded carefully. Thank you.

Paper Warns Against Rushing To End Israel Boycott

JN1110125293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—For all intents and purposes, the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity ended when the oil shaykhdoms flung open the gates of the peninsula and the Gulf to the U.S. military and allied Zionist forces and the heirs to the old Western colonialism, AL-THAWRAH writes.

In an article published today, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party adds: The boycott, effectively, ended when Islamic sanctities were put at the mercy of foreign armies and the barbaric aggression on Iraq was underwritten by Muslim resources.

The paper notes the Arab League secretariat's warning to the Gulf states about the implications of terminating the boycott of the Zionist entity against the backdrop of a recent session grouping Shim'on Peres and the foreign ministers of four Arabian Gulf shaykhdoms.

In the past, cosying up to the Zionist entity required a degree of discreetness. But after Arab and Israeli negotiators sat at the same negotiating table leading up to 'Arafat reaching an agreement with this entity, the door is now wide open for public dealings, obviating the need for discreetness, secrecy, and roundabout ways.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to ask: Has the Zionist entity vacated the West Bank and Gaza? Has the Zionist occupying power pulled out of the Syrian Golan Heights or southern Lebanon? Has any Israeli official even hinted at the prospect of withdrawal from any of these territories or Jerusalem? Will the Zionist entity be prepared to contemplate allowing the UN-mandated repatriation of the Palestinian refugees? Has this entity scaled back its arms procurement program or relinquished the notion of a strategic military edge over the Arabs?

The traitors who joined the sinful aggression on Iraq cannot wait to warm to and normalize ties with the Zionist entity in order to prolong their manipulation of Arab resources and fortunes, AL-BA'TH concluded.

Article Urges China To Play Superpower Role

JN0410154293 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 4, INA—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper of Baghdad called upon People's China to perform its role on the international arena as a superpower and permanent member of the Security Council.

A paper article here today said a look at today's world, one can understand the tragedy that had affected world peoples as a result to the American hegemony and brutal unilateralism.

The paper said that China, after understanding this reality at a late date, should play its role aspired for by other peoples and be parallel to its international and regional weight.

The Iraqi paper recalled Iraq's warning against dangers of American designs which are after disintegrating and deterioration of other superpowers in the world so that it will maintain the sought for unilateralism in defining destinies of peoples in accordance with its interests and objectives.

AL-QADISIYAH said that President Saddam Husayn had in the Amman Arab summit, 1990 referred to the tragic consequences that would be inflicted on world nations because of the passivity maintained by other superpowers toward the American moves for strengthening its hegemony.

The Iraqi paper expressed regret over the indifference shown by world countries including the superpowers over the Iraqi warning and said that that was embodied in the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the tragedies taking place in the former Soviet republics and the events that are taking place in Yugoslavia, Somalia, Libya, Cuba, Iraq and other world countries now.

AL-QADISIYAH said that China, after becoming aware of the nature of the American design and the dangers of its impacts should move now in conformity with its principles, slogans and history of protracted struggle to lead the international fight against the American unilateralism.

The paper said that Beijing should resist the American endeavours aiming at consecrating the security council as an instrument for the prevalence of the American influence and realizing the Zionist and imperialist objectives.

Russian Plane Reportedly Arrives To Ferry Uranium

JN0910093693 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] News reports have said a huge Russian-made Antonov-124 cargo plane has landed at al-Habbaniyah Airport west of Baghdad in a sensitive mission to carry 35 kg of uranium to Russia.

UN sources said that [words indistinct] remaining from nuclear fuel [words indistinct] where teams from the

International Atomic Energy Agency are guarding the uranium in two sites near the [word indistinct] center south of Baghdad.

It is worth mentioning that transporting such material is very costly. It is paid for by the tyrant Saddam regime that manufactured deadly weapons in order to achieve its aggressive objectives of destroying Iraq and its material and human resources.

U.S. Spy Plane Flights Protested to United Nations

JN1110153193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has filed a strong protest with the United Nations over the continuing violation of its airspace by the American U-2 spy plane under the guise of conducting aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission.

The protest was contained in a letter sent by Acting Foreign Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi on 9 October to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. On 30 September, and 2, 5, 6, and 7 October, the U-2 violated Iraqi airspace after taking off from its base in Saudi territory, said the letter. These latest violations raise the total of such breaches to 176.

The minister stressed that Iraq condemns the violations. He reiterated Iraq's unchanging position that the U-2 is being used for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council and that its flights are detrimental to Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Aircraft Violations Protested to Arab League

1,2 Oct Sorties Reported

JN0710125593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League over the continued facilities provided by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to U.S., French, and British aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace and threaten its security and sovereignty.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League reported that these aircraft, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, on Friday and Saturday, 1 and 2 October, violated Iraqi airspace and conducted 149 hostile sorties.

Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League requested that the letter be distributed to the member states. He included a list detailing these violations.

3,4 Oct 'Violations' Protested

JN1010132693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the continued facilities offered by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said that on Sunday and Monday, 3 and 4 October, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace taking off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 87 aggressive sorties.

The Iraqi representative attached a list detailing the violations and asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League member states.

5,6 Oct 'Breaches' Noted

JN1110152893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continuing provision by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers of facilities for American, British, and French aircraft used to violate Iraqi airspace, to the serious detriment of Iraq's security and sovereignty.

A letter from Iraq's permanent Arab League representative to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, noted that on 5 and 6 October these aircraft mounted 118 hostile sorties. Attached to the letter was a detailed description of the breaches. Iraq's delegate asked that it be circulated to League members.

7,8,10 Oct Flights Protested

JN1210111693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continuing provision by Saudi and Kuwait rulers of facilities for American, British, and French aircraft used to violate Iraqi airspace, to the serious detriment of Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

A letter from Iraq's permanent Arab league representative to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, noted that on 7, 8, and 10 October, these aircraft mounted 98 hostile sorties.

Attached to the letter was a detailed list describing the breaches. Iraq's delegate asked that the list be circulated to League members.

Saddam Orders Monthly Allowances for Religion Teachers

JN1110180393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text]) Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that lecturers and teachers who regularly teach the Holy Koran and religion be given monthly allowances. Lecturers will get 150 dinars, while teachers will get 100 dinars.

This was announced today to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz. He said: Leader President Saddam Husayn in all of his meetings with workers in the educational field shows interest in the concerns of these workers and deals with them with unmatched wisdom. He surpasses the experts themselves in pioneering initiatives to address the problems and proviude incentives for the workers to improve their performance.

Teachers Thank Saddam for Allowances

JN1210133793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 93

["Text" of cable from Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Your Excellency mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may you enjoy God's protection.

The educational sector in general and the teachers in particular have always been privileged to be the object of your care and attention. The latest example was your excellency's generous order that the teachers of religious education be granted monthly allowances. This generous gesture testifies to your abiding ambition that a new generation be raised with a high regard for religion and adherence to its tolerant precepts—teachings that seek to organize and lay solid foundations for human societies inspired by faith in the almighty God and the heritage of a nation that God honored with the revelation of divine message to one of its sons.

Great leader and mujahid: In the name of the teacher community, please accept our gratitude and appreciation for this generous action. We give you our word that we will redouble our efforts to instill in our young people a love for principles and adherence to high morals. We renew the pledge that the banner inscribed with the slogan God is great shall remain held aloft forever to illuminate the road to uprightness for the citizens of great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation. That banner will strike fear in the hearts of the unjust, warm the hearts of the patient, and firm up the foundations of right and justice in order for all the people of the world to live in peace.

May God, the ideal support, grant you success and help you realize your hopes and humble your enemies.

Opposition 'Iraqi Democratic Party' Formed in London

PM0810141293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "New Iraqi Opposition Party Advocates Liberal Democratic Regime"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The establishment of a new party in the framework of Iraqi opposition to President Saddam Husayn's regime was announced in London yesterday. A statement issued by the "Iraqi Democratic Party" [al-hizb al-dimuqrati al-'iraqi] said that the party is seeking through the Unified Iraqi National Congress to establish "a liberal democratic regime" that renounces "violence as a means for political change."

The party was established by a number of Iraqi doctors, economists, engineers, and businessmen living in Britain, the United States, Austria, Sweden, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. They met in the British capital early last week and elected Engineer 'Aziz 'Ulayyan chairman of the party.

The party's program calls for "securing conditions and passing laws that help private economic activities to play the main role in economic life." It believes that the private sector "is more efficient than the public sector in running economic institutions under a market economy." The program emphasizes "guaranteeing the Kurdish people's right to self-determination and bolstering their desire for a federation within a unified, parliamentary, federal Iraq."

The final statement of the Iraqi Democratic Party's founding meeting pointed out that its founders espouse "the aim of establishing a liberal democratic regime... peaceful power rotation... and renunciation of violence as a means for change."

Officials Report Fatal Clashes With Smugglers

JN1010162193 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 10, INA—Iraqi competent authorities seized large numbers of sheep and big quantities of copper arranged for being smuggled abroad.

Brigadier Husayn Mustafa, director of customs told AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper that custom personnel seized 9000 heads of sheep after clashes with smugglers with various weapons including using helicopter gunships which helped arrest the smugglers.

Several other smugglers were killed during the clashes with custom police he said.

The customs director further said that borders guards and police had during a period till the end of August managed to seize 59565 heads of sheep and 153 head of cattle and 496 tonnes of copper prepared for smuggling outside Iraq.

The director further said that the smugglers also tried to smuggle medium and like weapons outside Iraq last September but were arrested after clashes with border police.

Sources React to PLO Appointments to Committee

TA1210170093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] The meeting of the PLO-Israeli Supreme Liaison Committee in Cairo tomorrow marks the beginning of practical negotiations toward the implementation of the agreement of principles. This is the most senior committee, a senior political element at the prime minister's office said, but the more important body addressing practical aspects is the Gaza-Jericho committee convening in Tabah.

The Liaison Committee debates will establish the framework of negotiations and the venue and frequency of encounters, aiming to monitor the negotiations conducted by committees and subcommittees that will be established in Cairo and Tabah tomorrow. Israel prefers to continue meeting in Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed that the purpose of tomorrow's encounter is to create a genial atmosphere of mutual trust that will enable the parties to achieve their objectives within the tight timetable—namely, to complete discussions and implement the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho within two months.

Political elements have expressed satisfaction with the PLO appointments to the committees. This is a pragmatic and serious group that is ideologically close to us, and that gives us a sense of security, sources at the prime minister's office said. However, the usual requests are expected to be made, such as the demands that the closure be lifted and security prisoners be released. We do not intend to give the PLO the date or figures of the prisoner release, and anyway, no staff work on this issue has been carried out here as yet, a Jerusalem political element revealed today.

As for reports that some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] circles are interested in joining the PLO side to the agreement of principles with Israel, the political element from Rabin's office believed that the reports represent tendentious leaks rather than well-founded news. If Hamas supports the agreement, he said, we expect to see it in a halt of all violence on its part.

Deputy Minister Silent on Future of Settlements

TA1210065393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, during a visit to Jewish settlements near Jericho yesterday, refused to say what will happen to the settlements after the autonomy period. However, he stressed that for the next five years the settlements will remain under Israeli rule. Our correspondent Amy Rhodes spoke with Deputy Minister Gur:

[Begin recording] [Gur] They are bothered whether they will remain or not, or whether they will remain under Israeli sovereignty or not. I am not going to discuss these issues, because it's not on the agenda. We are now talking about the autonomy, and that's the reason why I am here, to discuss things with them, to make sure that in that framework we shall not commit any unnecessary mistake, and we shall give the best solution possible. During the interim agreement of the five years, no settlement will move whatsoever, and it is our responsibility of the government to their security and their existence.

[Rhodes] In view of the attacks that took place in Wadi al-Qilt, what precautions are you taking in the area?

[Gur] Well, there are some precautions that this is not the occasion to discuss, but we are taking the necessary precautions in order to put an end to any terrorist whatsoever. The government said explicitly that we are responsible for their security, and that's what we shall do. One has to admit that their mood is very gloomy. [end recording]

Rabinovich: Syrians Should Help Prepare Way

TA1210190393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpt] It emerges from remarks made by Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich at the annual convention of Friends of Peace Now in the United States that Israel would rather wait a while before attaining an agreement with Syria. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Israel is awaiting a change in Damascus' public diplomacy, said Ambassador Rabinovich, head of the delegation to the talks with Syria. Moreover, even if Syria complied with Israel's demands with regard to the essence of peace, al-Asad's regime would still need to carry out deep preparatory work with the Syrian people before any progress could be made. In a meeting with journalists at the end of his speech, Ambassador Rabinovich was asked to clarify his remarks.

[Rabinovich] To be precise, what I said was that our preferences in the negotiations at the moment are twofold: We want to realize the agreement with the Palestinians and see the beginning of its successful implementation, and we want to enjoy its political dividends in terms of the Arab world giving us a higher level of recognition, reconciliation, and all the things that began modestly immediately after the agreement was signed and still gathering momentum.

We have been telling the Syrians—we do not tell them directly because we do not contact each other in between rounds of talks, but we tell them through the U.S. partner—that if they want to pave the way to progress in the negotiations they had better help in those two aspects. We have made it clear to the Syrians—the prime minister and the foreign minister have repeatedly stated as much—that we remain committed to and interested in serious negotiations with Syria and in attaining and consolidating an agreement, just as we have always been. However, it is clear that something has changed in the Middle East. An agreement was reached between us and the Palestinians before one was attained with the Syrians. Hence, tactically speaking, these factors must be taken into account in order to make progress. [passage omitted] [end recording]

IDF, SLA Directing Fire on Terrorists

TA1210163893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Terrorists in south Lebanon once again opened fire this afternoon with mortars, Sagger missiles, and machine guns at an SLA [South Lebanese Army] position in the Sujud area. There were no casualties or damage. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA artillery responded by opening heavy fire—which continues intermittently at this time—at the sources of the fire. An SLA position in the same area came under fire this morning and yesterday.

6 'Terrorists' Killed by IDF in South Lebanon

TA1310073193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Six terrorists were killed in two clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in south Lebanon. Yo'av Aviv, our correspondent in the north, reports that three terrorists were killed in a fire fight with IDF soldiers in the central sector. The shelling of the terrorists began when an IDF patrol noticed suspicious movements. Confirmation was received this morning that the three had weapons and had planned to attack our forces.

In another incident, it transpired that three terrorists were killed following a 3-day IDF chase that ended north of the security zone. Yesterday, it was reported in Lebanon that three Islamic Jihad terrorists were buried in Tyre. News agencies reported that the three were killed by the IDF.

Papandreou's Return Not Expected To Harm Ties

TA1210102693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Oct 93 p A7

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem believes that the political upheaval in Greece will not harm relations between the two states.

A senior Foreign Ministry source noted that Andreas Papandreou has referred to Israel in warm terms in recent months. Papandreou's Socialist Party won the general elections Sunday, and he will apparently set up the government.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met with Papandreou during an official visit to Greece in July. During that meeting, Papandreou—who forecast he would win the elections—vowed that he does not plan to introduce any changes in the conservative government's policy toward Israel and will even strengthen relations. [passage omitted]

Rabin Visits PRC, Meets With Officials

WA1310122693

For PRC and other reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to China, including his talks with Jiang Zemin, CPC general secretary and president of state, and Li Peng, premier of the State Council, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 12 October China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Knesset Lifts Immunity of MK Der'i

TA1210194593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The Knesset this evening removed the parliamentary immunity of Knesset Member [MK] Arye Der'i with a large majority, which means that the state attorney may now press charges against him. Sixty-five MK's supported the Knesset House Committee's recommendation and the attorney general's request to lift his immunity. Nine MK's—of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Yahadut Hatora, as well as Ron Nahman of the Likud—voted against the motion, while one MK abstained.

King To Hold Talks With President Mubarak 'Soon'

JN1310092793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] In statements to Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR, Jordan's King Husayn said he will soon meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for talks. These will be the first talks between the two since the Gulf war in 1991. [King Husayn paid a brief surprise visit to Cairo on 14 October 1992 to offer condolences over the earthquake that hit Egypt on 12 October]

Prince Hasan Returns, Comments on Results of Trip

JN1310090993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned home after visits to the United States, Britain, and the Vatican. His majesty the king greeted his highness upon arrival this evening. The crown prince met in Washington with the American President Bill Clinton, the Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and attended the donors conference and a meeting with a delegation of the World Bank. The crown prince also met with the UN chief, the Arab League secretary general before flying for a meeting with the pope in the Vatican. The crown prince said his trip was very productive. His highness said the follow-up would be intense, particularly with respect to the donors conference.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Maha al-Sha'ir] Your Royal Highness: Have you received any assurances from the world community on debt relief for Jordan?

[Hasan] Indeed, in the discussions yesterday with—or the day before yesterday—with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, in the discussions in Washington with the representatives of so many of the governments participating in the donors conference, and most significantly in the discussions with President Clinton, there was not only reassurance, but a readiness to discuss many different ways of addressing the problems of Jordan's financial responsibilities, addressing the subject of the continued difficulties that we face in the port of al-'Aqabah. And I believe the delegations will be visiting Amman in the days ahead to discuss practical steps.

[Al-Sha'ir] Can you tell us more about the joint Jordanian- Israeli-American working group?

[Hasan] The trilateral working group will be an extension of the bilateral discussions as we resume discussions in Washington, presumably during the weeks ahead in the month of October, and as you know there is a trilateral Palestinian-Israeli-American working group. So in that sense the point of intersection will be the keen American interest in the activity of both working groups, which I think is a reassurance for all in the region that the sponsor is playing the full partner role that we expect of him.

[Al-Sha'ir] I am sorry to take your time. Can I just ask about the pope's meeting vis-a-vis the Vatican's position on Jerusalem and Jordan?

[Hasan] Well, clearly the continuous consultation with the Vatican has emphasized the clear interest of the Vatican on Islamic affairs. I think his holiness is probably conspicuous as being one of the world leaders who has spoken out over the plight of Muslims in Bosnia, probably more so than many Muslim leaders. And as far as the question of Jerusalem is concerned, the meeting place of the Abrahamic faiths was very much on the top of the agenda as we looked at the religious sharing of rights in this region. It was a very successful visit, and I think that it deepens the Christian-Muslim dialogue sessions that we are holding at this time. [end recording]

Minister on Citizenship Issues, Gaza-Jericho Accord

JN1210102693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 27

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has said that Jordanians of Palestinian descent are Jordanians in every sense of the word and have the right to vote and run for election. The Gaza-Jericho accord, he added, is a political decision that should not undermine the fabric of a united people.

In exclusive statements to AL-DUSTUR during a "Meet the Press" forum yesterday, the minister noted there has been widespread speculation that West Bankers residing here may not be able to vote in the parliamentary elections set for 8 November. The minister said Jordanians are equal no matter where they came from. As interior minister, I am in no position, nor should I be, to disfranchise a person who holds Jordanian citizenship and is listed in the electoral register, Hammad said.

He noted the unfolding political nature of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The minister indicated that the Palestinian-Israeli committee is to hold its first session tomorrow, Wednesday, and that the meetings are likely to drag on for years. Hence, it is not possible for us to base our stand on a developing process and split the ranks of a people whose unity has been an example to other Arabs.

The interior minister pointed out that the Gaza-Jericho accord will have no impact on the legal status of Jordanians in Jordan, not even in the future. He explained that a good many people may choose to move to the West Bank, but, nonetheless, retain their Jordanian citizenship and go on to acquire Palestinian citizenship as well. Others may opt for Palestinian nationality instead of Jordanian nationality. Such decisions will depend on how things turn out in the end, the minister added. [passage omitted]

Delegation to Multilateral Talks on Water Named

JN1210103193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 1, 28

[By Nabil 'Ghazzawi]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned from authorized sources that Jordan's delegation to the Arab-Israeli multilateral talks on water has been named. The talks will be held in the Chinese capital, Beijing.

It has been learned that the delegation will be led by Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, and will include: 'Ali al-Ghazzawi, the economic adviser to the minister of water and irrigation; Muhammad Zafir al-'Alim, the assistant secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority; and Mahmud al-Duwyari, the director of the Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Center.

The sources said that the multilateral talks on the environment will be held in the Egyptian capital on 15 and 16 November.

The Jordanian delegation to these talks will be led by Anis al-Mu'ashshir.

Reporter 'Barred' From King Assassination Plot Trial

JN1310074993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 93 p 10

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The JORDAN TIMES was Tuesday [12 October] barred from attending the trial of the 10 defendants accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty the King, which is currently being held at the State Security Military Court at Marka. After being told that she could not enter the courtroom to attend yesterday's session, our reporter Sana' 'Atiyah, who has been covering the trial since it opened on Sept. 9 was later summoned to the office of the presiding judge, Colonel Hafiz Amin, who told her that she had violated a decision by the court prohibiting the publication of trial transcripts.

The judge was referring to a report she wrote in Monday's JORDAN TIMES on the court's proceedings Sunday, in which four defendants claimed that they were "tortured" during their detention period, before the trial started.

Assassination Trial Defendants Claim 'Torture'

JN1110113493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—Four accused in a sedition plot on trial told the State Security Court Sunday [10 October] that they were tortured into signing confessions.

The court heard the four describe how they were allegedly beaten and threatened into signing testimonies that a General Intelligence Department (GID) officer had drafted. The defendants accused the GID officer, whose name was mentioned by all the defendants but cannot be published, of threatening them with further torture and detention at the GID.

Ten men are being tried in the case, two of them in absentia. Five of them were cadets at Mu'tah University, and another is a member of the Royal Escort Unit. The others, including the two at large, are described as leading activists of Hizb al-Tahrir (Islamic Liberation Party—ILP).

The 10 are accused by the military prosecution of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn and replace the regime with a caliphate Islamic state. They are also charged with trying to change the Constitution through "illegal and violent means" and belonging to an illegal group, the ILP which is not a registered organisation in Jordan.

The first defendant admitted in court Saturday that he was a member of the ILP, but insisted that he knew nothing of the alleged plot and that he and his party never believed in or advocated violence to achieve any political aim.

In a one-hour testimony, the defendant said that he had been living in Germany since 1975 and was arrested upon his arrival at Amman airport in May. He said his family had told him over the phone that the GID had asked for him, but had thought it was a minor problem that could be solved once he arrived.

He told the court that he was tortured by a GID officer, who beat him with a bamboo stick for one and a half hours after he denied any knowledge of membership of any soldiers in the ILP.

"I was then left without questioning for 55 days in cell number 10. I stayed up some nights listening to the screaming of detainees being tortured," said the defendant, a civil engineer, who added that he heard the name of the member of the Royal Escort Unit being repeated by the officers.

A map of the GID prisons by Amnesty International shows that "cell number 10" is located near what the defendants called the "torture square" and a corridor where alleged torture of detainees takes place.

The first defendant said he was beaten on the soles of his feet again after he denied to the GID interrogator that he was accused of plotting to kill the King, "and I told him it was against my principles and beliefs."

The bearded and bald defendant went on to say that the same GID officer had "three times sworn to execute me and promised he would personally attend my execution."

This suspect, and the other three who testified on Sunday, said their testimonies to Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi were drawn up the first time "on the sixth floor of the GID," and attended by the GID officer in question. [sentence as published]

Presiding Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin asked them in court if they had told the prosecutor that they were beaten, they replied they did not, either because the GID officer was present or they did not know who Maj. Hijazi was.

The defendants were not questioned by their lawyers, who asked questions through the court "for clarification purposes."

The defendants had to respond to Maj. Hijazi's cross-examination, where he tried to establish that he had not tried to force the testimonies on any of them, and that he had given them a chance to change their testimonies after they were transferred to the Al-Zarqa military prison.

But the defendants either denied that the prosecutor asked them if they wanted to give new testimonies or insisted that they were afraid of what they called the "threats of (the GID officer)."

"He swore I would be back at the GID prison if I changed the first testimony," said one defendant.

The accused said they were not read out their testimonies and that they had not looked at them. They also maintained that they did not know they had a right to a lawyer and that they were discouraged by the prosecutor, who, they said, told them, "lawyers cost too much money, the state will appoint one for you." They all said they were detained for one month at the GID before being charged by the interrogators.

The second defendant, a small bearded imam of a mosque, said that he "gave in" to whatever the GID officers had wanted him to do after the beatings he "consistently suffered for one month."

"If the (GID officer) told me my name was different from mine, I would have agreed with him at that point," the imam said, adding that the officer constantly cursed him and his tribe.

"They made me walk on my hands and knees as an officer sat on my back and beat me with a stick," he claimed, adding that he sometimes fell unconscious "in the torture square" and woke up in his cell.

"When I saw the lawyers for the first time at al-Zarqa prison, I thought they were Mukhabarat (GID) until I saw Salih al-Fayiz (one of the lawyers)," the imam told the court as spectators burst out laughing.

The defendant said he had gone to the first defendant to take lessons in Islam, but that he had not benefited from the lessons and signed with a course given by the Awqaf.

The prosecution has charged that the first and second defendants were members of the ILP and had recruited the member of the Royal Escort Unit to recruit students at Mu'tah University, a military academy south of Amman, to plot to assassinate the King at a graduation ceremony on June 26.

The member of the Royal Escort Unit testified that he too was repeatedly tortured by a number of GID officers.

"Immediately after my arrest, 10 officers took turns beating me 24 hours a day for 10 days," he asserted.

He claimed that a doctor at the GID had checked him, and then he was allowed to spend some time in his cell where he was allegedly given pills to keep him awake before he was taken to the "torture square" again.

"I began to urinate in my pants without feeling it, and I still do," said the 23-year-old defendant, adding that he was threatened with sodomy if he did not sign the testimony.

Maj. Hijazi tried to establish during his cross-examination that the defendant had taken a strong fall during his training last year when he was a student at Mu'tah University, and that he had medical problems before he was arrested.

Waving papers in his hand, Maj. Hijazi said: "These univerity reports show you fell on your back and suffered bad injuries. Did you not have a problem with uncontrollable urination before you were arrested?" The defendant denied both.

The fourth defendant, a Mu'tah University cadet, also claimed he was consistently beaten at the GID by the same officer named by the others. He said the officer had stripped him and threatened to shove a stick in his rectum if he did not sign a testimony that tied him to the plot to kill the King. He also maintained that the officer threatened him with a "stray bullet."

During cross-examination, Maj. Hijazi tried to establish that the "signs of torture" on the defendant's face were self-inflicted.

The defendant denied he had beaten his head against the cell door, but admitted that he had tried to commit suicide once "with the string of the blanket." When Col. Amin asked him why he tried to kill himself, he said, "because of the injustice I saw at the hands of a Jordanian institution against a Jordanian citizen."

The court will hear from the defendants on Tuesday.

Defendants Conclude Testimony

JN1310105593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Oct 93 pp 36, 30

[Report by Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Text] Amman—The State Security Court examining the al-Tahrir [liberation] Party case yesterday listened to the rest of the defendants' testimonies at a public session held under Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin, who was assisted by Judge Major Tayil al-Raqqad and Judge Major Fawwaz al-Buqur.

At the beginning of the session, Judge Hafiz Amin reminded reporters that the court had earlier directed the press and news agency correspondents not to publish the minutes of the sessions, or else they would be barred from attending the trial.

The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth defendants presented their testimonies, indicating that their previous testimonies were not correct. They were then questioned by Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi, the court judges, and the defense lawyers. The presiding judge gave the defendants sufficient time to testify. The defense lawyers then asked for a break of several days before they could present their defense statement. Their request was granted.

The defense counsel consists of Lawyers Salih al-'Armuti, Jawad Yunus, Muhammad Mihyar, Salih al-Fayiz, Salih al-Zu'bi, and 'Umar Damrah.

At the end of the session, the presiding judge made the following decision: In order to enable the defense counsel to define its position and present its evidence, and because the case deals with detainees, the court has decided to defer sessions until Tuesday, 19 October, at which time sessions will continue through Thursday.

Syria's Khaddam Meets With al-Hariri

NC0910113393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Beirut today on a private visit. As soon as he arrived, he proceeded to the Government House and met with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in the presence of acting Foreign Minister Marwan Hamadah. Afterward, Khaddam and al-Hariri went to the American University of Beirut hospital to reassure themselves about the health of Khaddam's brother.

Al-Hirawi, Khaddam Confer

NC0910182593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, accompanied by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, left B'abda Palace at 1745 today following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

In remarks to reporters, President al-Hirawi said that Khaddam, who is on a private visit to Lebanon, made protocol visits to the three government leaders.

Asked if the Lebanese-Syrian Supreme Council will meet next week, al-Hirawi replied: This is newspaper talk.

He explained that according to the Lebanese-Syrian brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty, recent agreements concluded between Lebanon and Syria must first be referred to the Chamber of Deputies for ratification before being submitted to the Supreme Council and therefore there is no need to be hasty in convening the Supreme Council.

Rejects Disengagement From 'Syrian Track'

NC0910142893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Zahir al-Khatib today cited President Ilyas al- Hirawi as saying that Lebanon insists on total coordination with Syria and will reject any request by the United States and Israel or by any other party to disengage the Lebanese track from the Syrian track. Al-Khatib said President al-Hirawi is determined to strengthen coordination with Syria and continue national action through the state institutions.

Al-Hariri on Peace Process, Ties With Syria

NC1210133593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies met at 1045 today under Speaker Nabih Birri with 86 deputies attending. The government was represented by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and 16 ministers. [passage omitted]

The prime minister answered deputies' questions about the government's stance on the negotiations with Israel. Prime Minister al-Hariri said: The issues that concern living conditions and how the government and its departments operate are undoubtedly extremely important. But the more important issue affecting the entire homeland is that of the negotiations, especially following the agreement that was signed—the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Prime Minister al-Hariri added: My recent visit to New York demonstrated the following:

The Americans support the Gaza-Jericho plan to the end. They asked Lebanon to join the donor countries and asked Syria to join, too. But we are the only two countries that have not joined.

The prime minister added: A discussion of the Lebanese and Syrian tracks took place. We stressed to the concerned officials that we are eager to proceed together and that the two tracks should proceed together. The U.S. Administration stressed that it is fully committed to the peace process and will send envoys this month or next. As you know, Israel is trying to prevaricate. Recent attacks, especially those we are seeing now, are the result of Lebanon's rejection of all the offers that inevitably aim to separate the Syrian track from the Lebanese one. The Syrian brothers also received the same assurances during Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Washington and his meetings with U.S. President Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Al-Shar' got the same assurances we got.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: I would like to reply to some deputies who asked about the full and complete coordination between Lebanon and Syria. This coordination exists and there are no parties with any reservations or questions about the complete links and coordination between Lebanon and Syria.

He said: This is the government's policy. The foreign minister might have his own analysis or opinions, but these have nothing to do with government policy, which is exactly what I have just said; it is very clear and frank. The reason for the problems in the south now is the government's policy and stance, which are clear and frank. We have nothing to hide.

The prime minister added: I have repeatedly said to the Chamber of Deputies that any agreement concluded with Israel will be taken before the Chamber of Deputies. There is no such thing as agreements concluded separately by the president of the Republic, the prime minister, or the Cabinet. The government will immediately inform the Chamber of Deputies of any agreement, because this issue does not concern a person or the Cabinet, but the whole nation. So you will be informed of it and approve it.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: Our decision and policy is full coordination with Syria. We go in as far as they [the Syrians] go. When they stop, we stop. When they step backward, we step backward. There is no argument over this, and no one can say the government has taken any step that differs from this clear and frank policy.

Fadlallah Cited on Opposition To Israel Accord

NC1310103493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes the dangers posed by Israel once peace is achieved are no less than the dangers during war. He added: It is the Islamists and nationalists' duty to prevent normalization between Israel and the Arabs, because Israel's plans rest on cordoning off the region through economic, political, and security means in peacetime—something it could not do through war.

In an interview with AFP, Fadlallah says: It is our right to mobilize all our religious concepts to react. The best method of preventing the Muslims from normalizing their relations with the Jews is to consult the Islamic thinkers on prohibiting dealings with the usurpers, just like the Jewish method to realize the Israeli plans based on religious concepts to usurp our land and control our peoples.

Fadlallah believes that a refusal to sign [the Israeli-PLO agreement] starts by alerting the people to prevent them from responding positively to their respective governments' calls for normalization. He says the failure of the Egyptian effort to get official normalization popularly accepted is the best evidence of this. He adds that this is a success that must be entrenched and repeated in other countries without starting a violent struggle with the regimes, but by relying on our freedom to discuss religious and political issues with our people and within a political front that includes those who reject the agreement, such as Islamists, nationalists, and pan-Arabists.

Fadlallah: Negotiating With Israel Defies Shari'ah

NC0810200093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] During his Friday sermon in Beirut today, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that bargaining with the Zionist entity contradicts Shari'ah teachings. He added that the policy pursued by global arrogance seeks to suppress any political, security, or cultural resistance to its schemes and to smother every voice that opposes bargaining with the Zionist entity.

Sayyid Fadlallah affirmed that global arrogance and Zionism seek to perpetuate Zionist hegemony over the Arab and Islamic world. He said: The world has devoted its energies to impose great pressure on the Muslims and Arabs and boost the Zionist entity's regional status.

Labor Minister Views Peace Talks, Gaza-Jericho

NC0910142193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Minister of Labor 'Abdallah al-Amin has denied that the Lebanese Government received a proposal on Jazzin first, saying it was an old proposal which the government rejected at the time and that it is utterly out of question.

In an interview with the Voice of Mountain radio, he said the government will accept nothing short of an agreement on a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories in implementation of UN resolutions. The talk about such proposals is merely jumping to conclusions enhanced by U.S. statements. He said: We hope the U.S. stand will be in line with Christopher's announcement that the United States is committed to the role of full partner. The Gaza- Jericho experiment does not advance the peace process.

He referred to U.S. economic pressure on the region affecting Lebanon, which will have an impact on the government's programs and projects. He said, if it wants to be serious about the peace process, Israel must transcend the formalities of the negotiations and committees and define its actual borders to be recognized. He affirmed: We still reject any committee or any procedures within the negotiations if we do not attain Israel's commitment to implement Resolution 425 and withdraw to the international borders.

When the occupation ends, he said, we will begin to discuss the form of peace on a comprehensive basis. He added: The solution must be comprehensive, and we reject any attempt to drag us into any bilateral agreement. Peace should be comprehensive, otherwise there will be no peace. The negotiations cannot make progress on one track in isolation from other tracks, and this basically applies to Lebanon and Syria. When agreement on principles is reached, the mechanism of solution will be a secondary issue. He reiterated that peace is not possible without Syria and Lebanon.

Al-Amin reiterated the government's stand on the multilateral talks, saying these talks are concerned with solving Israel's problems while the bilateral talks deal with solving the Arabs' problems and the multilateral talks will lead to normalizing relations with Israel. He said: We will not move a step in the multilateral talks unless the bilateral talks are over. We will not talk about normalizing relations with Israel before regaining the land.

Buwayz: Lebanon Ready To Be Financial Hub

NC0910175093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the role, size, and position of every country in the Middle East will take shape in the upcoming phase.

He noted that Lebanon is currently poised to play its historic role as a commercial, economic, financial, and cultural center. But, he said in a speech in Washington, the Lebanese people in the United States should back Lebanon at this very time more than at any time before to enable Lebanon to begin a reconstruction and development campaign and restore its pre-war role.

Hizballah Radio Reports Attack in South

NC1010071893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic GMT 0630 10 Oct 93

[Text] The Martyr 'Abdallah Sh'aytu group of the Islamic Resistance attacked the Bi'r Kallab position with machine guns and rockets at 0500 today. There was a direct hit on the position and all its fortifications and ramparts were destroyed.

According to sources in the Islamic Resistance, the attack was launched when a number of Zionist soldiers were in the position. Casualties have been reported.

The Islamic Resistance responded to the bombardment of the al-Luwayzah township and Mlita hill by firing 120-mm mortars at the Bi'r Kallab position. Al-Luwayzah and Mlita have been coming under 105-mm artillery fire.

Palestinians Killed During Clash With Israelis

NC1210120393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] According to security reports, four Palestinians carried out an operation in the Misgav 'Am area in Israel today. The four, armed with machine guns and rockets, clashed with an Israeli patrol. One Palestinian was killed in the clash and the other three crossed the border, but entered a minefield near Wadi al-Saluqi on their way back.

The Islamic Jihad movement claimed responsibility for the operation, indicating that a support group retrieved the dead and took them to Sidon, where a funeral for the fighters will take place this afternoon.

Junblatt: Hitting Hizballah Sole U.S. Concern

PM1210132893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and minister of evacuees affairs, by Rafiq Khalil al-Ma'luf in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Ma'luf] What is your impression after your meetings with a number of U.S. officials regarding the Lebanese track in the peace process?

[Junblatt] My impression is that the Americans will not abandon the course they followed in 1982, namely to achieve a security agreement between Israel and Lebanon similar to the 17 May agreement. As for the issue of Security Council Resolution 425, it seems to be out of the question [ghayr warid] as far as the Americans are concerned. So arming the Army makes it sound as though the Lebanese Army is destined to be always the internal spear.

We are for Israel's withdrawal and for the implementation of Resolution 425. But we are against the Army's return as a tool of internal repression, whether against Hizballah or others. I fear a return to a kind of military dictatorship. Nothing has changed with regard to the Americans. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ma'luf] Did you feel that the U.S. Administration supports the need for Israel to withdraw from the south and the principle itself?

[Junblatt] What the Americans are interested in is to hit what they term terrorism, that is the Lebanese national resistance, namely Hizballah. This is their only concern.

[Al-Ma'luf] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' spoke about the need for a comprehensive peace and to achieve progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. Do you believe there is a serious desire to reactivate these two tracks?

[Junblatt] I have not got the full information. However, I believe that it is better for Lebanon and the safety of its internal security and unity and national peace that there be full coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. It is dangerous for us Lebanese and for some of the rulers to consider separating from Syria and entering a Lebanese-Israeli track. It is dangerous. It would return us to the days of (President) Amin al-Jumayyil and the 17 May [agreement].

[Al-Ma'luf] From time to time there is talk about the idea of Israel's withdrawal from Jazzin first. What is your opinion?

[Junblatt] I have not heard of that. The Lebanese Army—with its present strength and without any extra tanks and armored vehicles—is capable of maintaining security if they withdraw from Jazzin. But the withdrawal cannot be divided: Either Israel is willing to withdraw from the south with the UN forces in accordance with Resolution 425 or not. Because it is impractical to engage in separate partial arrangements, as that would result in a huge political problem.

[Al-Ma'luf] U.S. statements emphasize the need for Lebanon and Syria to check and disarm Hizballah. What do you think?

[Junblatt] No. We have the legitimate right to defend our territory by all means until the Israeli forces depart. But that is a U.S. and Israeli demand: hitting Hizballah, then security arrangements, then normalization with Lebanon. It is the same thinking which led to the so-called 17 May [agreement], which led to hitting Lebanon, hence the Jabal [Lubnan] war, 6 February, and so on.

[Al-Ma'luf] Why did you describe President Yasir 'Arafat as the mayor of Jericho?

[Junblatt] So far he is the mayor of Jericho. We hope he will become the president of the state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital. We hope he will own the natural resources in water and land in the West Bank, and we hope he will grant Palestinian identity to the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, the Palestinian camps, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. So far he has not started as mayor. Let us wait and see.

[Al-Ma'luf] How do you visualize a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem in Lebanon?

[Junblatt] There is no other solution but to grant them temporary residence. They should be offered living, social, economic, and security guarantees and be treated as human beings. That is, I disagree with the view of various isolationist circles that this constitutes settlement. No. We believe they have the same status as Algerian and Moroccan workers have in France. It is, of course, something temporary. If 'Arafat obtains the state, we will send them to him. I do not believe that Palestinians are seeking Lebanese identity. They want to be respected, offered the minimum guarantees, and not to be scorned and have their presence placed under the "refugees' interests" slogan. If it was up to me, I would have issued a decision to set up a ministry for Palestinian affairs in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Funeral of 3 Islamic Jihad Fighters Reported

NC1210185993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The funeral of three Islamic Jihad in Palestine fighters who died in an operation in Misgav 'Am area took place at the al-Rashidiyah camp at 1500 today. Sources from the Islamic Jihad in Palestine reported that the three fighters—a Palestinian, a Jordanian, and an Algerian—were killed on Friday [as heard] when they walked into a mine field at the northern edge of the occupied security zone while attempting to return to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The sources added that the International Committee of the Red Cross pulled the bodies of the three fighters out and handed them over to the Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

PFLP Issues Statement on 9 Oct 'Sea Operation'

NC0910122993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] [organization name as received] released a second statement today. It said that 'Ahd Marwan al-Banna, one of a group of three fighters, was martyred in a sea operation in Nahariyya. In an earlier statement, the PFLP claimed responsibility for a fedayeen operation on the northern coast of occupied Palestine at dawn today. A PFLP spokesman said that a fedayeen group had succeeded in getting through the Ra's al-Naqurah area by boat, landed near Nahariyya, and clashed with an Israeli army unit for 30 minutes at 0400 today. He said that a clash raged between the fedayeen group and the occupation forces in which Israeli helicopters and tanks were used. The clash left a large number of enemy personnel dead or injured.

PFLP-GC Carries Out Operation in Northern Israel

NC0910071393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] carried out an operation in Nahariyya, northern Israel, at dawn today. Members of the front clashed with the Israeli army for 20 minutes. A PFLP-GC source told AFP in Sidon that the commandos, whose number and fate he did not discuss, arrived in Nahariyya after crossing the Lebanese border town of al-Naqurah.

Our security correspondent reports that Israeli helicopters are conducting extensive flights over al-Naqurah.

Tension Prevails Following Shelling, Overflights

NC1310071393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tension prevailed in the south last night following Israeli shelling of the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah and Jabal al-Rayhan yesterday evening.

Israeli warplanes carried out reconnaissance flights over al-Nabatiyah and al-Wadi al-Akhdar.

And yesterday, artillery fire was directed at the South Lebanese Army's Sujud position.

Israeli Helicopters Reportedly Drop Nails on Roads

NC1310072493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Zionist enemy helicopters last night dropped nails on the roads in the western sector of south Lebanon to prevent cars from moving. They dropped the nails on the Kafra, Yatar, Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm, and al-Hinniyah roads. The enemy helicopters also fired flares, which lit up the sky in the region.

Enemy artillery yesterday afternoon resumed shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah. Shelling concentrated on the areas of Mlita, Jabal Safi, and al-Luwayzah from the occupation positions inside the occupied strip.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Infiltration Attempt

NC1310084593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that three terrorists were killed in the al-Qantarah area last night as they tried to infiltrate the border area to carry out a terrorist operation. Personal weapons and explosive material were found near the bodies.

Al-Shar' Briefs Council of Ministers on U.S. Visit

JN1210152493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. It reviewed the performance of the services, economic, and cultural committees. It also acquainted itself with the positive results of the visit Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' paid to Washington and his meetings with senior U.S. Administration officials.

Al-Shar' explained the results of his contacts and meetings with a large number of Arab and non-Arab foreign ministers on the periphery of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly. He also told the Council of Ministers that he sensed much appreciation for and understanding of Syria's positions under President Hafiz al-Asad and its important role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the UN resolutions, the Madrid formula, and the principle of land-for-peace.

The Council of Ministers also studied topics listed on its agenda, as well as the subjects presented to it, and made appropriate decisions on them.

Washington Talks Said 'Only Vehicle' for Peace

JN1310092393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN believes that it has become necessary to reestablish the fundamentals and components of the peace process, as it was originally planned, even before the convocation of the Madrid conference.

TISHRIN notes that the Madrid formula stipulates that a just and comprehensive peace must be based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; the land-for-peace principle; a comprehensive solution on all fronts; and complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: Since the first round of bilateral talks, Israel should have embarked on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. It should have honored all provisions of these resolutions. Israel has, instead, missed every opportunity created by the Washington talks, and stepped up tension to evade the requirements of peace, the foremost of which is complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Israel has repeatedly attempted to torpedo the Washington talks and hold the Arabs responsible for it. It has attempted to hold them responsible for the consequences of the failure of these negotiations.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Israel is gravely mistaken if it believes that Arab concern for the continuation of the peace process stems from a position of weakness, that it is capable of proceeding to achieve its aggressive and expansionist objectives at the expense of Arab rights, or that it can have both land and peace.

TISHRIN says Syria's strength is derived from its pan-Arab position, and from its adherence to the components of a just and comprehensive peace. It is impossible to achieve peace in the region without Syria, the paper notes. There is ample evidence showing that it is impossible for anybody to circumvent Syria's role, or to overlook Syria's firmly established principles, particularly since Syria knows how to safeguard the components of a just and comprehensive solution and how to activate and advance the Washington talks.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: While waging the peace battle, Syria has nothing to hide. The Washington talks are the only vehicle to achieve peace on the basis of a true, serious, immediate, and full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Officials Deny Report of Secret Contacts With Iraq

PM1210154493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Following Reports of Secret Visit to Baghdad by Security Delegation, Syria Denies Making Contacts With Iraq in Preparation for Rapprochement"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT; London, Political Studies Center—Syrian officials yesterday denied Damascus had any knowledge of what had been reported in London, namely that there have been Syrian-Iraqi contacts in the past few days in preparation for a public visit to Syria by an official Iraqi delegation aimed at achieving rapprochement between the two countries.

Syrian officials said that they had no knowledge of such contacts, stressing that there had been nothing of the kind.

Arab sources in London had said that a high-level Syrian security delegation made a secret visit to Baghdad as a step toward rapprochement between the two countries after more than 25 years of boycott.

The sources added that it was Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who pushed toward this step, as in the wake of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement he felt Syria could be singled out and subjected to a new isolation similar to the isolation of the second half of the sixties in the days of the former regime.

According to the sources, the Syrian security delegation, the names of whose members have not been revealed, told the Iraqi delegation, when they met, that the two countries have made mistakes vis-a-vis one another and that, in the light of the embargo imposed on Iraq and the attempts to push Syria toward isolation, there must be coordination and the misunderstandings which have continued for many years must be ended.

The sources expect these security meetings to develop into political meetings and the issue of unifying the ruling Ba'th Parties in the two countries to be raised again. The sources did not rule out that an official Iraqi delegation could make a public visit to Damascus in the near future.

As is known, an abortive attempt to unite the two countries and reunify their ruling Ba'th Parties took place in the late seventies. A charter called the "pan-Arab charter" was issued at the time. But conditions soon deteriorated after Iraq alleged that it had uncovered a coup attempt supported by President al-Asad, aimed at getting rid of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and merging Iraq and Syria in a union under the Syrian president, in cooperation with some senior party leaders in the two countries.

Observers say the severity of the media attacks between the two countries has declined noticeably in the recent period, and that the Syrian-Iraqi border has for some time witnessed active trade traffic, albeit unofficially.

The belief prevails among some circles that Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement could become a real and serious matter if the embargo imposed on Iraq by the United Nations continues and if the present stalling continues in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations within the framework of the current peace process aimed at finding a solution to the Middle East crisis.

Need To Maintain Arab Boycott of Israel Stressed

JN1210153493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After the gains it has made from the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel is seeking other gains at the expense of Arab land and the Arab citizen. Immediately after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel began a feverish campaign to cancel the Arab boycott and rescind all UN resolutions condemning the policy of aggression, expansion, and terrorism it has followed since its establishment.

Any move to cancel the Arab boycott of Israel will constitute a very painful blow to the Arab position and cause. This is especially true because the just and comprehensive peace that should be established is still a very remote regional prospect, because Israel, which demands the cancellation of Arab boycott of it, still occupies Arab territories.

In light of this, how can Arabs cancel a decision to boycott Israel while peace is still not here and while Arab land is still under Israel's occupation? Everyone knows very well that the cancellation of the boycott will take place only after Arabs regain their usurped rights.

As the main motive behind the boycott decision still exists, it is necessary to maintain the boycott. It is wrong to talk about this issue while Israel continues its occupation of Arab territories. On what basis are Israel and its supporters calling for rescinding UN resolutions condemning Israel, which has never committed itself to or recognized the UN resolutions?

Hence, we have to reaffirm that these resolutions should continue because they are considered a principal term of reference showing that the Arab-Israeli conflict goes on, that the primary issues of the conflict have not been resolved, and that Israel continues to occupy Arab land and affirms that it is not interested in withdrawal from Arab Jerusalem, or in the return of the refugees, or in total withdrawal from the occupied Golan. Many other issues are viewed as major elements in the conflict.

It has become clear that through the recent crack it has created in the Arab wall, Israel wants to achieve all the goals it has failed to achieve through the policy of aggression. Here, we have to reaffirm that the current stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict is actually the most serious of the conflict. Therefore, the issue needs more caution and alertness, especially since the Arab nation's enemy thinks that peace has been achieved through the Gaza-Jericho agreement, while facts confirm that the opposite is true.

What happened in Washington on 13 September severely damaged the peace process launched by the U.S. Administration. So, great and sincere efforts are needed to rescue this process. This is the way a just and comprehensive peace may be achieved, not by creating other cracks.

Afghanistan

Gaylani Ready To Become Prime Minister

LD0910220393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview with the Mojahedin newspaper, organ of the Jami'at-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [Islamic Society], esteemed Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, has said: If the present government is obliged either through (?the legal means) it has formed or is forced to step down, I am ready to accept the responsibility of the premiership and to serve my compatriots through the grace of God.

BIA reports that the esteemed leader of the National Islamic Front has, in this respect, said: It was proposed to me by esteemed President Rabbani to become prime minister. There were some problems, due to which I was not ready for this job. If it is possible and is proposed to me, and the High Council resolves or agrees to it, I am ready for this job and to serve Afghanistan.

Esteemed Gaylani has added that it is necessary for the tension between the government and state to be removed and to have close cooperation. To ensure that this government has the capability to conduct the affairs of the country, the president should propose this to the High Council, and the High Council should decide what is effective and preferable and whether this government should continue or a new government should be formed.

Defense Ministry Commission Holds Meeting

LD1110211793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The Afghan Defense Ministry commission met this morning at the headquarters of that Ministry.

The BIA military correspondent reports that at today's meeting, delegations assessing heavy weapons, which began their work at the west and southwest of Kabul city some time ago, presented a detailed report. The results of the work of the delegations were positively considered. The Defense Ministry Council expressed gratitude for the cooperation of the Jehadi formations and armed groups in the aforementioned areas. The commission asks that esteemed Jehadi groups and units in the north and northeast cooperate with the delegations assessing weapons, which are due to begin work on 12 October.

Arsala Meets With Counterparts at UN

LD0110225193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, took part in a meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the developing countries, which was held at UN headquarters. He requested priority for Afghanistan, whose socioeconomic infrastructure has been damaged as a result of the 14-year war, in securing international aid. In accordance with the proposal of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the final statement of the conference of the developing countries' ministers says that most development problems of some developing countries have been caused by natural disasters and grave acts and require more special attention, which will help with the task of reconstruction.

According to another report, Hedayat Amin Arsala met with Ismat Kittani, the UN general secretary's special envoy for Tajikistan, at the UN headquarters in New York. During the meeting the two sides discussed the problems caused by the situation in Tajikistan, among them the problem of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister also met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin in New York. In their talks the two sides discussed issues of interest to the two countries.

Meets UNDP Head

LD0610171393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 4 October, Esteemed Hedayat Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with [name indistinct], director general of the UN Development Program [UNDP] in New York.

At the meeting, matters concerning the expansion of UNDP activities in Afghanistan, in particular the opening of a UNDP branch in Afghanistan as soon as possible, were discussed. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Official Meets UN Kabul Head

LD0510215593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Esteemed Mohammad Jalil Shams, assistant foreign affairs minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning in his office Mr. Lockwood, head of the UNDP [UN Development Program] in Kabul. In the meeting, esteemed Mohammad Jalil Shams expressed gratitude for the activities the organization has carried out for the alleviation of the problems of the people of Afghanistan, reassured him about the improvement of the security situation, and requested further expansion of the UNDP activities in the reconstruction of the country, especially in projects of public utility.

In response, Mr. Lockwood expressed pleasure at the gradual improvement of conditions that are leading to the security and stability of the country, furnished information on the UN development programs for Afghanistan, and reassured the assistant foreign affairs minister on the cooperation and humanitarian aid of the organization in different socioeconomic fields.

Rabbani Sends Greetings to PRC President

LD0110075193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Text] A message of congratulations from Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has been communicated to Jiang Zemin, the president of the People's Republic of China, on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the formation of that republic. The text is as follows:

PRC President Jiang Zemin:

I have the pleasure, on behalf of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan, to convey to your excellency and the PRC state and people my sincere congratulations. As two friendly, neighborly countries, Afghanistan and China have common and ancient historical and cultural links, which have played great role in the [words indistinct] culture and common life. These links have further strengthened as a result of the moral and material assistance your great country gave to the people of Afghanistan in the course of the 14-year jihad. We attach great value to the traditional links between the people of our two countries, and we believe that the friendly country of the PRC will play its valuable role in the reconstruction of war-shattered Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Awami League Activists Enforce General Strike

BK1010061093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0344 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 10 (AFP)—Opposition activists Sunday enforced an eight-hour nationwide anti-government general strike as armed police and paramilitary forces patrolled Dhaka streets.

Slogan chanting militant activists from the main opposition Awami League (AL) of Sheikh Hasina Wajed marched in the central Farm Gate area and in downtown Dhaka, preventing pedicabs from operating in some areas.

Wajed, who returned home Saturday from Singapore after undergoing treatment for an undisclosed illness, in a statement called on Bangladeshis to make the strike a success.

"People are fed-up by the two-and-a-half year rule of BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party)," she charged. "The economy has been badly affected because of unchecked corruption of the ruling party."

The AL, which ends its nearly two-month anti-government campaign with Sunday's strike, is demanding the trial of fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party chief Golam Azam for crimes allegedly committed during Bangladesh's 1971 independence war, a repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance which bars the trial of the killers of the country's founding leader and ex-president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a stop to alleged repression of its workers.

The Jatiya Party (JP) of deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad last month separately also called its first strike Sunday since its fall in 1990 demanding the release of their jailed leader and mid-term polls.

However, JP supporters were not seen on the roads as the strike took affect.

The AL rebuked JP for riding on its back saying the JP alone could not organise an effective strike and had then chosen Sunday for their protest.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said those trying to damage the BNP by calling strikes are actually causing harm to the people and themselves.

"Failing to come to power with people's vote, they are now out to harm the people through politics of strike and indiscipline," Zia was quoted as telling her student supporters late Saturday.

Meanwhile, hundreds of commuters walked to their work or used pedicabs, where permitted.

Opposition newspapers said many government officials stayed overnight in their offices.

Police restricted entry to the volatile Dhaka University campus and guarded the roads leading to the area housing government ministers.

Residents in the southeastern port city of Chittagong said the strike had been enforced there and a strong police contingent was deployed.

In a separate development, teachers of Bangladesh's nine universities Sunday started a three-day strike demanding punishment of "terrorists" responsible for attacking teachers in nearby Jahangirnagar University, campus sources said.

Ex-Marxist Leader Now Heads Government Body

BK1210061693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Oct 12 (AFP)—Ziauddin Ahmed, a former leader of a banned Bangladeshi Marxist party has taken over as the chief of a government organisation in this southeastern port city, officials said Tuesday.

Ahmed, a retired army lieutenant colonel who was on the government's wanted list for about two decades, is now the chairman of the Chittagong Development Authority, they said.

"I have left politics," he told AFP on Tuesday, but refused to comment on his decision to return to the mainstream.

Ahmed, a bachelor and a veteran of the Bangladesh's 1971 independence war, led a faction of the Sarbahara Party which he left three years ago accepting an amnesty offered by the authorities, they said.

He was sacked from military service in 1973 for writing an article critical of Bangladesh's founding leader and ex-president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the pro-government TELEGRAPH newspaper reported Tuesday.

Rahman was killed in a 1975 military coup along with most of his family members.

Zia on UN Trip, Water Problem With India

BK0710153993 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, speaking about the success of her visit to the United Nations, said it has helped to realize two objectives. She said it has boosted the image of our country and has also given an opportunity to Bangladesh to reiterate its complete trust and confidence in the world forum. The prime minister said this while addressing a news conference at the Zia International Airport today afternoon after returning from New York where she addressed the 48th session of the UN General Assembly.

The prime minister said that the purpose of her visit was to reaffirm the pledge of Bangladesh to convert the United Nations into a more effective forum for resolving world problems and for establishing peace and social justice. She added that her visit was also aimed at projecting to the world the role Bangladesh played in world affairs and to highlight the successes achieved by the present democratic government in different spheres.

The prime minister said Bangladesh is playing an active role in the United Nations for the cause of peace and development. She said for this reason Bangladesh was elected to 10 UN organizations in the past two years. It has also been elected vice president of the current session of UN General Assembly. The prime minister said that she was also elected co-chairperson of the roundtable conference on the rights of children.

This conference was addressed by heads of states and governments of eight countries and several foreign ministers. Begum Zia said this reflects the confidence of the world in the people and government of Bangladesh. She said the nation should be proud of this. The prime minister said that Bangladesh has earned admiration for her role in the maintenance of world peace. Begum Zia added that she was personally requested by the UN secretary general to send troops to resolve the problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina. She said at present we are engaged in peacekeeping operations in different countries. The prime minister said Bangladesh wants to increase its role in the establishment of world peace and stability.

Begum Zia said that as the chairperson of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] it is her special responsibility to take initiatives to implement the pledge for socioeconomic development and the eradication of poverty from this region.

Referring to the water-sharing problems with India, the prime minister said so far no progress has been made in reaching any agreement with India on the sharing of the waters of the River Ganges. She said she has informed the UN General Assembly of the initiative taken by Bangladesh in this regard. She added that in 1976, the UN General Assembly took up for discussion the situation that arose as a result of the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters by India. Begum Zia said that by doing so the UN gave recognition to this problem. The recommendations of the special political committee on this issue were adopted in the six-point statement issued by the UN General Assembly on 26 November 1976. The prime minister said that Bangladesh had always emphasized the need to resolve bilateral problems with her neighbors through dialogue.

Later, adddressing a mammoth reception accorded to her at the airport, the prime minister called upon all irrespective of party affiliations to work unitedly to realize from India a fair share of the river waters. The prime minister said she has drawn the attention of the world community to the serious problem created due to the unilateral withdrawal of the waters of the River Ganges by India.

Talks Begin on Returning Refugees From India

BK0810020193 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Bangladesh and India have begun talks on repatriation of Chakma refugees to their homes in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The talks held in Dhaka yesterday were attended by a three-member Indian delegation led by Home Secretary M.N. Vohra. The Bangladesh side was headed by Home Secretary Azimuddin. They also discussed bilateral issues, including smuggling across the border and immigration issues. The Indian delegation, now on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh, later met Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in Dhaka yesterday.

Secretaries To Meet Biannually

BK1010034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The home secretaries of India and Bangladesh will meet once every year and the directors general of BSF [Border Security Force] and BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] will meet twice a year to discuss bilateral issues and solve problems, if any. Giving this information to Indian newsmen in Dhaka today, the union home secretary, Mr. M.N. Vohra, said it has been decided to make institutional arrangements to deal with the problems on either side by holding meetings at different levels, whenever necessary. Mr. Vohra said the Indian team to the 3-day meeting with Bangladesh Home Ministry officials, which concluded today on the participation of the Chakma refugees, Mr. Vohra said the process is making good progress [sentence as heard].

Kuwait To Provide Loan for Power Projects

BK1210135693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait will provide a loan of one crore [10 million] Kuwaiti dinar, equivalent to U.S. three crore dollars [30 million dollars] to Bangladesh. An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka today. This loan will be provided from the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development. It will be utilized for implementing the fourth phase of the rural electrification projects in Brahmanbaria and Mymensingh. The grant of this loan follows the recent visit of the Bangladesh finance minister to Kuwait. After implementation of these projects, 33 kilovolt, 11 kilovolt, 400 volts, and 230 volts of power will be supplied to an area measuring 2,725 kilometers. This power will be supplied to residential houses, commercial establishments, and irrigation projects.

Kuwait has so far granted financial assistance amounting to $20 crore seven lakh [$207 million] to Bangladesh. The important projects in which this assistance have been utilized include East-West communications network projects, eight rural electrification projects, deep tubewell projects, and the Ashuganj thermal power project.

India

Minister Returns From UN, Criticizes Clinton Speech

BK1210150693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] India has reasserted that Pakistan will not be allowed to exploit the Kashmir issue under the garb of human rights. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi on his return from New York, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said that India made a strong and firm rebuttal when Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the UN General Assembly meeting. He said India is in touch with all friendly countries to ensure that Islamabad does not create any confusion at the United Nations. Mr. Khurshid said many countries, including those from the Organization of Islamic Countries [as heard], have appreciated India's position on Kashmir and its commitment to secularism.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1342 GMT on 12 October, in a New Delhi-datelined report, adds: "India on Tuesday criticised U.S. President Bill Clinton's remarks that Kashmir was among those areas where 'a bloody ethnic... and civil war' was raging in the world. 'We were all disappointed and dismayed,' Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid said here, referring to Clinton's maiden speech in the United Nations on September 27. It was New Delhi's first reaction to the U.S. President's remarks. Khurshid, who returned from New York, said India hoped the United States would not back Pakistan's efforts to introduce a resolution over Kashmir in the United Nations 'under the pretext of human rights (violations there).'"]

Editorial Voices Concern Over U.S. Interest in Kashmir

BK1110093993 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Sep 93 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "What Clinton Meant"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's reference to Kashmir in his first speech in the UN General Assembly should surprise no one. If anything, it should shake Indian authorities out of their hope of cordial relations with the U.S. in the post-cold war world. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Mallott's visit to India in May this year gave foreknowledge of what to expect. Mr. Mallott's fulminations showed that on two areas of major concern to India, Kashmir and atomic power, the Clinton's administration's policy blocked India's long-term interests. The U.S. official seemed to incline towards Islamabad's viewpoints. Mr. Clinton's statement has now confirmed that Mr. Mallott was not altogether speaking out of turn. As the first U.S. president in well over a decade to resurrect the Kashmir issue in the international forum, Mr. Clinton's initiative amounts to a virtual endorsement of Pakistan's long-cherished desire to internationalise the issue. In fact Mr. Clinton's reference to Kashmir in a speech that emphasised the UN's peace-keeping role may be an attempt to suggest a similar interference in the Valley. That such a suggestion has come at a time when Pakistan was asking the Security Council to strengthen the UN military observer group on the Indo-Pakistan border gives the impression that the moves of the U.S. and Pakistan on Kashmir are again converging. This would be a departure from the policy of promoting a bilateral solution of the question within the framework of the Simla Agreement. The shift in American policy is no doubt worrisome. It is however more important to understand the real motive behind Mr. Clinton's reference to Kashmir as one of the regions where "bloody ethnic, religious, and civil wars" might conflagrate to "murderous proportions" endangering world peace. There is an obvious attempt to link Kashmir with the question of non-proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies. Herein lies the catch. Of late U.S. policies have betrayed a new impatience with India's reluctance to agree to an NPT [nonproliferation treaty] regimen without actually signing the NPT. This is so because the Clinton administration perceives that the end of the cold war has given the U.S. considerable leverage in South Asia. The U.S. is therefore keen to use this leverage to prod India into following policies tailored to suit perceived American interests. U.S. priorities in the region include putting a cap on India's capabilities on the frontiers of science and technology. India's advance in nuclear and space technologies conflicts with the U.S assumption that countries like India should not have such capabilities. Despite New Delhi's consistent support for comprehensive, universal and non-discriminatory denuclearisation in the military field, and in spite of India being the only country within and outside the NPT system to voluntarily abstain from manufacturing weapons, America wants to block this country's further technological advance. And it is in this context that Kashmir has provided the U.S. with a convenient pressure point to coerce India into foreclosing its options in these two critical areas.

Sri Lankan Navy Kills 4 Tamil Nadu Fishermen

BK0910151293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, four fishermen were shot dead and four others injured when the Sri Lankan Navy fired on their boats off the Rameswaram coast last night. Police sources told AIR [All India Radio] Madras correspondent that the incident occurred within the Indian territorial waters. The injured fishermen brought the bodies of the dead to the shore and handed them to the Rameswaram police. The injured have been admitted to the Rameswaram Hospital.

Protest Lodged With Colombo

BK1010125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] India has lodged a strong protest with Sri Lanka over the killing of four Indian fishermen by the island's Navy in the Palk Straits. The Indian High Commission in Colombo, lodging the protest today, asked the Sri Lankan authorities to investigate the killings and avoid the recurrence of such incidents. The incident took place on Friday.

Police Arrest 3 Including 'Pakistani Spy' in Bombay

BK1310033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] In Bombay, the police have found direct evidence of the involvement of Pakistan's Interservice Intelligence, ISI, in the communal riots with the arrest of three terrorists, including a Pakistani spy. Police sources said the arrest of the agent is a prized catch. Initial interrogations indicate that his job was to organize groups for sabotage. The Pakistani national was arrested following a tip-off from Army intelligence.

Reaction to Pakistani Election Outcome Reported

Congress-I Welcomes Results

BK0810125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The Congress-I has described the outcome of elections in Pakistan as an indication that people in the subcontinent are rejecting political parties which exploit religion for electoral gains. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi that Pakistan seems to have had a relatively free and fair poll and the Congress-I is happy over these developments.

Home Minister Comments

BK0810161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has expressed the hope that the outcome of elections in Pakistan will have a positive impact on Kashmir. Addressing a meeting in New Delhi today, he hoped that the new government would refrain from aiding terrorists in the valley.

Rao Urges Not Aiding Kashmir Rebels

BK1110070293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the incoming Pakistan Government to refrain from assisting militant activity in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to newspersons in Lucknow yesterday, Mr. Narasimha Rao said India would welcome any democratically elected government in Pakistan.

[Begin Narasimha Rao recording] You see, we have always welcomed democracy in Pakistan. And we have always had a working relationship—sometimes cordial, sometimes not so cordial. This has been happening all the time. So, we will have to see with what strength the new government comes, which is very very important, which government comes, [and] how they function. And in course of time we can judge, they can judge to what extent we can normalize our relations. The first thing they have to do is to stop this (?mischief) they are doing in Kashmir. It goes without saying. So, everything will depend on their willingness to do this, because this is the gateway of better relations. [end recording]

Earlier, addressing a public meeting, the prime minister said the government would abide by the decision of the Supreme Court on Ayodhya [temple-mosque issue]. He said the country is now facing the biggest challenge from communalism. Mr. Rao said that only the rule of law must prevail, and the Constitution must be (?protected). He assured farmers that the Dunkel proposal would not affect their interest.

Commentary Analyzes Results

BK1110113593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Oct 93

[S.C. Bhatt commentary]

[Text] Elections to the Pakistan National Assembly, the lower and popularly elected house of the country's parliament last week, resulted in a hung house. Neither the outgoing prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, nor his predecessor in office Ms. Benazir Bhutto won a clear majority. The outcome of the elections to the provincial assemblies held a couple of days ago has, however, given Ms. Bhutto a clear majority in her home province of Sindh. She has also done remarkably better in Mr. Nawaz

Sharif's backyard—the country's biggest and most powerful state, Punjab—than she did a couple of years ago. Now, her Pakistan People's Party—PPP—and an allied party together have a lead over Mr. Sharif's Muslim League in the Punjab Assembly. Observers think Ms. Bhutto's somewhat better showing in the provincial assemblies would improve the chances of her forming the government in Islamabad. In other words, there is less uncertainty now and Ms. Bhutto may step into the Prime Minister's Office once again. This is subject to the usual precaution one has to take about some independent and small parties changing their minds for various considerations. This phenomenon is not unknown in the developing world. Mr. Sharif, who did not particularly distinguish himself as Pakistan's prime minister, has immense capacity to win over these elements. As of now, however, the Bhutto family flag is flying high.

These elections were third in Pakistan in three years. In a country which had known military dictatorships for years, this was not a totally unwelcomed development. Especially this time round, the elections were conducted in a fair and free manner—as fair and free as they could be in a feudal system. This was due to the presence of the Pakistan Army, which mobilized nearly a quarter of its strength to keep an eye on troublemakers and booth capturers. The Army ensured there was no unfair practice and no rigging in the polling process. Whether the people exercised their choice freely, whether or not they were influenced by feudal and factional loyalties are matters which are not yet fully known. The conclusion drawn by some Pakistani writers and borrowed by foreign correspondents that a two-party system is emerging in Pakistan seems to be premature. What has happened is that the voters gave short shrift to Islamic fundamentalists and opted for real politicians. Of course, the politicians are themselves not above exploiting people's religious sentiments.

Neither Mr. Sharif nor Ms. Bhutto have missed to play up anti-Indian feelings on issues like Kashmir. Ms. Bhutto talks of nice things when she faces foreign observers and makes an attempt to be reasonable. When she is facing her voters, she is the same jingoist politician. Thus, there is not much to choose between the two leaders. In fact, it would not be much of an exaggeration to say the difference is only between tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee. That is particularly true of the most important foreign policy issue in Pakistan—its relations with India. As Prime Minister Narasimha Rao said on Saturday, the real test of Pakistan's desire for better relations with India would be what support is now given by the Islamabad government to the secessionists in Kashmir. Under both prime ministers, the Pakistani secret service outfit, the ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence], has gaily carried on its efforts to create trouble inside India's Kashmir state. That, as Mr. Rao said, is the gateway through which Pakistan's professions of friendship or better relations with this country have to pass. India is, however, happy as anybody should be that the people of Pakistan have exercised their choice and democracy will continue to hold sway in Pakistan. Things are, however, not so simple. The Pakistan Army is always flexing its muscles. If it has not lately intervened in a direct manner, it must be put down both to wiser counsels at home and some friendly arm-twisting by Washington which wants the show of democracy to go on. Than, there is the president of Pakistan who has peculiar overriding powers in a parliamentary system. The former president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, had dismissed not only Ms. Bhutto, but Mr. Sharif as well until the courts intervened and the Army finally put its foot down. So, here is wishing well to the people of Pakistan—let democracy prevail, let the real power to the people emerge after some trial and error and let them realize that real peace is possible only in a friendship with India.

CBI Closes Inquiry Into Payoff Allegation Against Rao

BK1210161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has decided to close its inquiries into the payoff allegations against the prime minister. Top CBI officials appearing before the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probing the security scam today stated that the issue did not fulfill certain requirements to make out a corruption case under the law. Among other things, the affidavits of stock broker Harshad Mehta was not properly made.

Briefing reporters, the JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Nivas Mirdha, said the CBI decided not to proceed ahead in the matter after taking legal opinion. He said the officials also pointed out that the Supreme Court declined to direct a CBI probe into the case. The court had observed that the facts placed before it were not adequate for the purpose. Mr. Mirdha said the CBI made this quick inquiry following press reports about the denial of the involvement of one of the witnesses mentioned by Harshad Mehta. The inquiries confirmed that the reports were correct. Asked about the JPC's view over the CBI decision, Mr. Mirdha said wait for the committee report.

Rao Says BJP Trying To Divide Country

BK1010060093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that the biggest danger the country faces now is communalism. Addressing a rally in Lucknow this afternoon, he alleged that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is trying to divide the country and society in the name of religion and temple. He said the BJP openly violated the Constitution and the judiciary on the 6th of December last year. But, his government will respond to the Ayodhya destruction with construction. The Congress-I president blamed the previous non-Congress-I governments for the deterioration in the economic situation and instability. Mr. Rao claimed that the recommendations of the Mandal Commission [on reserving jobs for the lower classes] have been implemented in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court.

On the Dunkel proposals, Mr. Rao said that their implementation will not be against the interest of our farmers. The rally was also addressed by Mr. Kalpanath Rai, Mr. Salman Khurshid, Mr. Narain Dutt Tiwari, and the Pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. Mahavir Prasad.

Swedish King, Prime Minister on State Visit for Talks

To Discuss Industrial Cooperation

BK1110090693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden said his current visit will give a new beginning to Indo-Swedish relations. The King and Queen Silvia were given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. They arrived in New Delhi last night. Speaking to newspersons after the reception, King Gustaf said that his eight-day state visit will also help in promoting understanding between the industrial groups of both the countries. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; and his cabinet colleagues were amongst those who received the visiting dignitaries.

King Gustaf visited Rajghat this morning and laid a wreath at the samadhi [mausoleum] of Mahatma Gandhi. He will call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today. The president will host a banquet in their honor tonight. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, will have talks with the Swedish king on matters of mutual interest.

King Meets President, Prime Minister

BK1110161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] India and Sweden have emphasized the need to make every effort to fight and eliminate terrorist activities. The matter came up for discussion when the visiting King Carl Gustaf of Sweden called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today. Dr. Sharma said that human rights and dignity of the individual as enshrined in the Indian Constitution have been an essential part of India's ethos. In this regard, he referred to the setting up of a national human rights commission headed by a former chief justice. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and regional and international issues.

During his meeting with the visiting king, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, invited Swedish industrialists and businessmen to take advantage of the opportunities provided by India's reform programs. Replying to the query by the king regarding India's priorities in the area of economic cooperation, the prime minister said his government will give top priority for the creation of infrastructure, particularly in the fields of power and telecommunications. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Swedish business delegation also on a visit to India will be able to fruitfully interact with their Indian counterparts and identify areas for cooperation.

The prime minister also gave an assessment of the political situation in the region. On Kashmir, he spoke about the problems being faced by India because of terrorism in the state, which is being aided and abetted from outside. The talks also covered a wide range of international issues.

King Gustaf expressed his condolences at the loss of lives caused by the recent earthquake. Mr. Rao conveyed his appreciation for the assistance provided by the Swedish Government.

Sharma Reaffirms Nuclear Weapons Stand

BK1210042393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] India has reaffirmed its stand for a universal and nondiscriminatory regime for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Speaking at the banquet in honor of the visiting King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in New Delhi last night, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said while the threat of a nuclear war has receded in the post-cold war era, mankind is yet to free itself fully from the threat of nuclear weapons. The president said India and Sweden share common aspirations on the emergence of an equitable world economic order. He expressed the hope that the Swedish king's visit will enhance Swedish participation in the development of India's economy.

Sweden's Ugglas on Kashmir, Rights

BK1210093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Sweden has expressed the view that the Kashmir issue should be resolved by India and Pakistan through dialogue, and the aspirations of the people restored through a democratic process. This was stated by the Swedish foreign minister, Ms. Margaretha Af Ugglas, in New Delhi today. Speaking to newsmen, she said every effort should be made to fight terrorism by upholding human rights in the valley. Strongly condemning terrorism, she said her country has a particular interest in Kashmir since over 300 Swedish engineers are engaged in the Uri hydel [hydroelectric] project being built there. Describing as good the setting up of a human rights commission by India, she said her country desires that it works in an effective way. Ms. Margaretha Af Ugglas, who is accompanying the king of Sweden on his state visit to India, said the visit will give new momentum to the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Urges Signing Nuclear Treaty

LD1210212593 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1645 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas today urged India and Pakistan to sign the Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Arms. In a speech in New

Delhi in India, the foreign minister said that such a treaty would be an important step toward relaxation of tension in the politically unstable South Asia. Both India and Pakistan are believed to have access to nuclear arms or possibility to develop such arms, but neither of the two countries has wanted to bind themselves to not resorting to nuclear arms.

Spokesman: 'Regret' Over Bangladesh Premier's Remarks

BK0810162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] India has reiterated its commitment to devise an equitable long-term and comprehensive arrangement on sharing of water with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions. While talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry expressed regret that the prime minister of Bangladesh thought it fit to raise the bilateral issue of river waters in her statement at the UN General Assembly on the first of this month. The spokesperson said her references to the Farakka barrage and related issues neither do justice to the documented facts nor refer to the understanding between the prime ministers of the two countries reached in May last year.

Commerce Minister Announces Lifting of Trade Ban on RSA

BK0710131793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] India has decided to reestablish trade relations with South Africa after a gap of 47 years. The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, announced the government's decision to lift the comprehensive ban on trade with Pretoria in New Delhi today. Addressing a news conference, he said the decision follows South Africa's progress toward becoming a nonracial democratic society. He pointed out that the conditions imposed by the Harare summit of Commonwealth nations for lifting sanctions have been fulfilled. Replying to a question, Mr. Mukherjee said there is a great potential for wide-ranging economic and trade interaction between India and South Africa.

Iran

Letter to UN Rejects U.S. 'Lawlessness'

LD1210105193 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran Monday criticized U.S. illegal interference in free navigation of cargo ships in international waters and called on international bodies to condemn the move. In his letter to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi referred to last August interception of the Chinese vessel 'Yin He' by U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf under baseless accusations. He termed the U.S. move as a serious violation of the rules of international law pertaining to free commercial navigation and trade.

"The action of the United States had no legal justification and was simply a case of recalcitrance in the face of recognised rules of international law," read the letter. It added, "it caused great losses to many individuals for which the United States bears legal liability." The letter reminded that repeated occurrence of similar acts under the guise of unfounded suspicions of prohibited cargo destined for one or more member states of the international community and the spreading of slander against members of the United Nations was aimed at undermining peace and security in the region.

Kharrazi added that this would mar confidence of states in the implementation of the rules of international law. The letter which was circulated as a U.N. Security Council and General Assembly document Monday stressed that the U.S. Administration, "in an irresponsible manner and through intermittent use of whimsical accusations and rumours, manufactures crises" to justify and strengthen its presence in various regions of the world, including the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Expressing "great concern" over the U.S. emphatic reliance on "information disseminated out of ill-will within and outside that country", the letter said the information usually had no reliable source and its use by the United States endangered international peace and security.

"The campaign propaganda that other states are buying and producing prohibited weapons and subsequent actions, such as the interception of the Chinese vessel will neither help international peace and security nor prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," noted the letter. It stressed that on the contrary, this would intensify the arms race by creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety, would diminish international understanding and confidence, would create an insecure and turbulent atmosphere in various regions and would mar all hopes for building an international community based on rule of law.

"Undoubtedly," said the letter, such unfounded claims would, at at this juncture, "only adversely affect the universal acceptance of the convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction."

Turning to the U.S. intention of employing the same unfounded accusations for similar actions in the future, despite the proof of invalidity of its recent accusations, the letter said that this was a further cause for international concern.

Stressing that such moves were serious violation of international laws on free navigation, it said that only an appropriate response by the international community will help preserve the credibility of the accepted rules and regulations in this connection.

It further added that Iran which enjoys the longest shoreline and consequently the most vested strategic interests in the Persian Gulf region, deemed it necessary to remind that continuation of such activities in contravention of international law, in any part of the world, seriously undermines international peac and security and confidence.

"The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, therefore, believes that the international communitry should reject such lawlessness and prevent the United States from playing the self-assigned role of international police, which contradicts the principles and purposes of the charter of the United Nations," concluded the letter.

Butrus-Ghali on Upcoming Visit to Tehran

LD1210171993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will soon visit Iran in order to meet and confer with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He announced this in an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit correspondent.

[Correspondent] Butrus-Ghali said that, in his opinion and in the opinion of the UN Secretariat, the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the United Nations are particularly important, and the key topics for his talks in Tehran will include developments in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The UN secretary general added: Iran plays an important role in promoting peace in the region, and the United Nations is anxious to benefit from Iran's cooperation in this field.

Referring to the problems that the United Nations is facing, he stated: The most important problem that the international community faces is the sheer quantity of problems and crises that currently exist in the world. This is demonstrated by the existence of crises in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Soviet republics, Somalia, Rwanda, Angola, Mozambique, Western Sahara, and the former Yugoslavia. The United Nations needs a sufficient budget in order to deal with all these crises. However, the insufficiency of funds is just another major problem for the United Nations.

Foreign Ministry on PLO-Israel Accord

LD0910170693 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Iran opposes the PLO-Israel compromise because the public opinion in the Muslim and Arab world and the Palestinian nation are not happy with what has been imposed on Palestinians, the Foreign Ministry spokesman commented today.

The spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi, pointing out that the PLO-Israeli compromise does not cover even the most primitive rights of the Palestinian people, noted "the Islamic Republic's stance against the compromise tallies with the interests and aspirations of nations in the Middle East."

Had public opinion in the region been in favour of the PLO-Israel compromise, the U.S. and the Zionist regime would have taken advantage of it to support the compromise and would not have urged their allies to pressure Iran, he told IRNA.

Sarmadi also advised European countries not to follow the U.S. in not having respect for the people and public opinion in the Muslim world, cautioning that this would endanger the place of Europe in the future world system.

Speaker on Accord

NC1310080493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Report by an unidentified correspondent from Zanjan—recorded]

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri arrived in Zanjan last night and was welcomed by Ayatollah Musavi, representative of the supreme leader and the Friday imam of Zanjan; Governor General Qasemi; and the Zanjan people's Majles deputies.

The head of the legislative branch attended a meeting of Zanjan clergymen. Saying how happy he was to be visiting Zanjan, he stated: Zanjan is the birthplace of great men and the clergymen played a key role in the fight against the monarchy. One reason our Islamic revolution won was that the clergymen were present on the scene.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri highlighted the clergymen's important mission in society and stated: A rule that revolves around a supreme leader is a divine and clerical rule; God has blessed our nation with this. We have a responsibility to this blessing and a heavy mission rests on our shoulders.

Referring to the PLO-Tel Aviv accord, the Majles speaker stated: The objectives of our revolution will not have been achieved while Palestine is not liberated. Pointing to the futile plots and attempts of arrogance headed by the United States against Iran, he stressed the need for all-embracing resistance against the great satan's machinations.

Concluding, Nateq-Nuri referred to the need to attract the young to Islamic values and principles and described this as one of the elements needed to confront the West's cultural onslaught.

'Islamic Hardliners' Protest U.S. Products

NC1010115893 Paris AFP in English 1103 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 10 (AFP)—A group of disabled Iranian war veterans opposed to ties with the United States have protested the presence of U.S. products at the Tehran Fair.

The group appeared on Tuesday in front of the presidential complex in Tehran and called for a "severe response to those who paved the way for the return" of American corporations to Iran, KEYHAN newspaper said Saturday.

The veterans of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, who visited the 19th International Tehran Fair Tuesday, were "angered" by the display of industrial and household goods made by General Motors and Admiral, it said.

The veterans were doubly offended when they were offered at the booth small American flags as gifts, it said.

Iran and the United States broke ties in 1980 after U.S. diplomats were taken hostage by Iranian radicals. But the two countries have boosted trade in recent years and American companies were represented in this year's fair by Iranian firms.

Commentaries View PLO-Israeli Peace Accord

Foreign Policy Response Urged

NC1010055893 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Oct 93 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "What Is Our Program?"]

[Text] One of the definite repercussions of the signing of the PLO-Israel compromise will be the opportunism and abuse of the situation by the reactionary Arab governments who are now revealing their covert links and heart's desires. It appears that the stigma of close and direct ties with the Zionist regime, which had been mitigated to a certain extent by the compromising talks, will now be completely erased.

The Arab reactionary regimes had constantly insisted that we are not "more Palestinian than the Palestinians." And today, if the PLO has violated certain boundaries with its treachery against Palestinian aspirations, it seems to be an opportunity for the Arab regimes to embark on new moves by capitalizing on the current psychological atmosphere resulting from the the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord without any qualms with regard to public opinion or their respective nations. They could even sign so-called separate accords with the despotic Zionists. Reports of the meetings between the heads of some of the Arab countries with Israeli officials are harbingers of these ill-omened and inauspicious tidings.

It is clearly evident that this trend will exert pressure and affect any resistance that may be present among some of the Arab countries.

What should be done to combat this political and diplomatic blitz by Zionism and the United States? The pressure that is being exerted in order to motivate Iran to change its stance by economic ploys, which has extended to the governments of Germany and Japan, continues and should be responded to. However, is it enough merely to declare our stance and will it stop the progress of the diplomacy of Zionism and the United States?

Our Foreign Ministry should formulate a specific and precise program at this stage; and as a preliminary measure an answer should be given to this question: Is it more important to prevent this onslaught aimed at destroying Palestinian aspirations or to broaden bilateral relations with other countries?

For example, if the heads of the governments of Tunis and Jordan were to meet the leaders of the Zionist regime, should the trend toward normalization of [Iranian] relations—which is already under way—with these two countries continue? What is the practical course of our diplomacy in this area? The Saudi king—who had adopted a hostile stance toward the PLO leadership in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf oil war—was among the first to announce his support of 'Arafat. This is an indication of the extent of the proliferation of this new U.S. game. In view of such a situation, the formulators of our foreign policy cannot continue to remain silent spectators.

The only path to combat this onslaught is a retaliatory onslaught which—despite the ability of the revolutionary forces and the active and potential situation in the region—will have limited results. What would happen if all our diplomatic efforts were to be directed at eliminating the sensitivity of the United States and Zionism toward Iran's diplomatic moves!

The opportunity for Muslims and the free-thinkers of the region to neutralize the new plots in the region is very limited and should not be lost.

Impact on Iran Assessed

NC0110194993 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Commentary by Majid Reza'iyan: "The United States—One Step Ahead"]

[Excerpts] The acceleration of the trend toward compromise in the Middle East has placed Islamism in a new complicated position and in the midst of a very difficult test.

The effect that the signing of the PLO accord with the Zionist regime will have on the intifadah demands a separate discussion. Henceforth, Palestinians will be pitched against Palestinians and the prospect of a civil war similar to the one that erupted in Lebanon in 1976 will be witnessed this time in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The main question that arises on the signing of such an accord, which has been named the second Camp David accord, is: What effect will it have on Iran—which is the base of Islamism—and what is its ultimate objective? [passage omitted]

The first step that the United States has taken is for the purpose of seriously combating Islamism—of which Palestine is a conspicuous example—and the signing of the PLO's obsequious accord with the Zionist regime is also geared to this purpose.

It is obvious that future U.S. efforts will also be directed toward strengthening this humiliating accord—which has been aimed precisely at the intifadah. Here it may merit mentioning that the intifadah first started in the Gaza Strip and within three months, it proliferated to the West Bank, which is the main center of activity of the Palestinian groups. [passage omitted]

In any case, the intifadah is considered a manifestation of the identity of the new Palestinian generation and the roots of this identity are based on Islam and its ideology. Most important of all, the main bedrock and cultural backing of the intifadah is the Islamic movement in Egypt. The Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and the Egyptian Muslims have longstanding common bonds that are an eloquent testimony of the aforementioned statements. Consequently, what happens in the Gaza Strip and Egypt afterward will be the most decisive factor in the probable success or defeat of the PLO's accord with despotic Israel.

There is no doubt that the United States will enter into a new phase of confrontation with Iran in the near future. But for various reasons, the approach will be different from what it has been in the past. The Americans know full well that in view of the levers that Iran possesses it will not abandon the field very easily. The most important of these levers is Islamism spearheaded by Palestine. By this token, the United States will give priority to propagating the impression in international public opinion that the intifadah has ended.

Precise and voluminous propaganda, news and cultural activities have been initiated by our media and should be projected meaningfully. Our foreign policy apparatus should also embark on extensive activities and use the lever of news dissemination and propaganda in order to clearly specify the principled stance of our revolution and system, especially on the issue of Palestine.

In the face of our principled efforts, the United States will be forced to change its tactics and will initiate them in another form according to the circumstances. This change in tactics will provide us with a suitable opportunity.

The United States will thus glean from our stance on Palestine whether there will be any possibility of dragging Iran into a compromise, or of establishing relations with Iran. With the signing of an accord between the PLO and the Zionist regime, the U.S. approach to Iran will become more intensive and extensive.

While maintaining our uncompromising stance at this extraordinarily sensitive juncture, we should formulate a detailed and cohesive approach and not ignore the levers of our foreign policy, propaganda, and our cultural clout.

Accord To Help Israel

LD0910131693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Since the PLO's compromise with the Zionist regime, two trends have dominated developments pertaining to Palestine. On the one hand, because the PLO leadership went ahead with its compromise with Israel alone and singlehanded, the organization has lost its cohesiveness. On the other hand, with the PLO's retreat from the stage of struggle against the Zionist regime, and its replacement by other Palestinian combatant groups, it is gradually becoming clear that in signing the recent compromise accord the PLO disregarded the public opinion of the Palestinians, and right now it is not enjoying the support of a sizeable proportion of the people. [passage omitted]

The signing of the PLO-Israel compromise treaty has not only brought the PLO to near disintegration, but also, because 'Arafat has ordered a cease-fire with Israel, halting all military actions against Israel, it has led to the arrest and imprisonment by the Zionist regime of large numbers of the Palestinian combatant forces in the occupied territories. During the last few weeks, the Israeli Army has been exploiting 'Arafat's unilaterally declared cease-fire and has arrested most of the members of these forces, who are known as the Black Tigers. 'Arafat's assertions in Cairo about the temporary nature of these arrests and his claim that on the basis of an agreement between PLO and Israel the detainees will soon be released has failed to induce any hope in the anxious hearts of PLO supporters and rank-and-file members in the occupied territories. This is because Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has flatly denied the existence of any such agreement. [passage omitted]

Bearing in mind all the developments in Palestine during recent weeks, perhaps one can confirm the opinion expressed by a number of political analysts who believe that the PLO-Israel accord was not formulated and put forward with the aim of resolving the Middle East crisis at all. Instead its main objective was to resolve the problems that Israel faces, and at the same time cause more problems for the Palestinians.

What demonstrates this objective is the fact that, while Washington and Tel Aviv have been taking major steps toward the lifting by the Arabs of political and economic sanctions against Israel, America chooses to reject the PLO's request for the establishment of diplomatic ties with Washington. Such evident proofs create a valuable and unique opportunity for those who insist on the continuation of the compromise to turn back and once again join the ranks of the struggling nation of Palestine.

KEYHAN on Israel's Remarks About Iran

NC1110130193 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Sep 93 p 20

[Commentary by Majid Reza'iyan: "What Israel Wants From the Arabs!"—quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Following the signing of the compromising accord between the Zionist regime and the PLO, Shim'on Peres presented an analysis on the prospects of Tel Aviv's relations with the Arabs and claimed that "Iran" and "Islam" have become the greatest dangers to the regional shaykhs! [passage omitted]

The following points are worth noting with regard to these deceptive and discord-generating remarks by Peres:

1. The arena of struggle with Israel: A country which was born in the wake of the emergence of the bipolar system of power has assumed a new shape as a result of international developments and the establishment of a new world order. The form has changed but the struggle continues.

If the legitimacy of this regime had not been the issue, would Peres have even used the Gaza-Jericho autonomy plan to lobby for official and legal recognition of the Israeli regime and the lifting of the official Arab boycott?

Would he have even tried to change what he thought was the venue of the struggle and to foolishly declare Islam and Iran as the true enemies of the regional shaykhs?

2. Even though the battlefield has assumed another guise, ultimately the intifadah has surpassed the limits of Gaza and will spread all over the occupied territories. Egypt is the most important base, being the seat of a rich culture and historical past and will further fan the flames of this struggle, thus keeping them alight. [passage omitted]

3. Islam and Iran are two terms that are synonymous with one another today and are used in the same context. It is perhaps for this reason, that Peres has used them together intentionally or inadvertently. There is no doubt that Islam and Iran are the true enemies of Israel and the Zionist entity today. However, Peres has apparently forgotten that the cultural identity of the Persian Gulf countries has been forged by "Islam" and these countries would not have any specific identity without it. The regional countries know full well that the basis of the people's political participation (with the governments in the region) is based on Islamic culture and regulations. It is for this region that Iran has always and for many years raised the cry for struggle with the true enemy of Islam and the Muslims in the region—that is, with the despotic Israel—in order to open the path for practical action by Islam.

Experience with the issue of the decree against the apostate Salman Rushdie and the categorical support by the regional countries at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] session for this decree has proved that Islam has a lofty and quintessential position in this region. The rulers of the regional countries have realized that claims of adherence to Islam, support for the decree against the apostate Salman Rushdie, and the struggle against the despots of Jerusalem are all intertwined.

The Zionist regime's foreign minister should have realized by now that Islam and Iran are connotations that can be applied to the same culture, and political pattern of the society and government in the region. "Rest assured." These cannot be changed with one compromise.

4. The rulers of the region should be able to get a whiff of discord-causing and dissent in their nostrils from Peres' utterances. They should also be aware that the Zionist regime is apprehensive of broadening relations and cooperation between Iran and the regional countries. The Zionist regime fears the political stability and the growing collective determination of the regional nations for the vindication of their rights, first and foremost, those of the Palestinians.

Hence, it is certain that any steps toward destroying relations or undermining Iran politically is tantamount to fulfilling the illicit political desires of the despotic Zionist regime.

It is obvious from Peres' remarks that a strategic policy is in the making with regard to the future moves in the region. These moves have begun with "instigation" and are seeking to find their niche. The regional countries should view the depth and significance of regional relations and should see that the Zionist regime—after the signing of this accord—should stop denigrating them further. They should desist from mentioning that the Arabs' room for political maneuvering has shrunk, or that with the change in the international system and the signing of this accord, the situation has become unfavorable for the regional countries.

West's Stand on Russia Called 'Hypocritical'

NC1310104193 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Exposing the Hypocritical Nature of the West"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Even though current events in Russia can be understood from various sides, the clearest fact that emerges is that once again these events revealed the discord-generating visage of the West, and world public opinion became better acquainted with the deceitful nature of those who claim to be champions of Western-style democracy.

The pompous claims of upholding democracy that are aired from the propaganda loudspeakers of the West subsided so suddenly during the events in Russia that it did not leave one iota of doubt in justice-loving individuals regarding their hollowness. The United States is expressing support for Boris Yeltsin while he tramples all manifestations of democracy and the law, and while he displays not even a shred of respect or regard for any Russian law.

The United States displayed the same despicable behavior with regard to events in Azerbaijan and despite the fact that 90 percent of the people announced in a referendum that they did not accept Elchibey as their president—even Elchibey declared that he did not intend to continue political activities and would prefer to stay at home and write on historical subjects—the United States announced that it considers Elchibey the president of Azerbaijan!

In the course of the Russian crisis—when Yeltsin had issued a decree for the dissolution of the Russian parliament and the Russian constitutional tribunal had deemed this action unlawful—seven major Western industrial countries of the world announced their unconditional support of Yeltsin. In doing so, they belied all their claims of upholding democracy and the rule of law to all intents and purposes.

World public opinion has witnessed the same hypocritical conduct in the West's approach to events in Algeria and all other international phenomena in which the United States and its Western cohorts have blatantly violated all laws.

Regardless of who remains in Russia and who goes, what is important is that the Western discord-generating face has been exposed more than ever and is being documented in history. This will prove a remarkable means for the people of the world to comprehend the deceitful and belligerent nature of the false advocates of democracy and human rights. It is precisely in such circumstances that the true nature of the international journalists and those who have control over world media can be gauged. In the midst of all the news reports, analyses, and commentaries disseminated by the media and international telexes, there is not a single one that exposes the hypocritical bias of the Western domineering powers.

This treacherous international censorship is an indication of the intense atmosphere of strangulation reigning over the international media, which exceeds hundreds of thousands of words daily with regard to the reports, analyses, and commentaries that are carried against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is because Iran is not prepared to join their coterie and to become a particle of this mass of dissimulation and disharmony that holds sway over the world.

Are not the hands of divine power clearly evident in the miscellaneous events that are gradually lifting the veil from the West's discord-creating visage?

Commentary: U.S. 'Trapped' in Somalia

LD0910174093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The capital of Somalia, Mogadishu Port, is currently witnessing events that are unprecedented in the history of not only Somalia but also of Africa. After 11 months of military presence and after confrontation with black independence-seeking forces, the world superpower has suffered heavy blows and damages. It is now forced to dispatch thousands of troops, with the support of the most sophisticated equipment, to Mogadishu only to help the already present forces.

It also has to call on the leaders of African countries to mediate to bring about the possibility of a political solution to the events.

It is interesting to note that the panic caused as the result of the defeats suffered in the past several days in Mogadishu has resulted in extensive protests in Washington and elsewhere to the presence of American troop in Somalia. These protests, in an already difficult situation, will create new problems for Clinton's government and will reveal, despite contrary efforts, the true face of the international policies of the Democrats. In reality, the fact that the American President is forced to dispatch 5,000 more trained troops to Somalia, while announcing the date of their withdrawal, indicates the existing hopelessness of the situation.

Meanwhile the fact that in the new campaign the related UN regulations are suddenly forgotten and America, despite former policies, is forced to engage in independent military operations, indicates a type of indecisiveness in policy-making.

What is the reason for all this confusion, hopelessness, and mistrust in confronting a barefoot people who have great difficulty even providing for their own basic needs? Are not all these problems due to Washington's ignorance of conditions in Islamic countries? This ignorance forces Washington to dispatch a trained classic army to confront guerrilla forces and the Muslim masses. This action seems foolish even to those who have the least political and military knowledge. According to basic military law, the participation of classic armies in suppression of popular and guerrilla movements will fail to increase the capacity for resistance but will provide the foundations of later defeats.

Finally, in such a domain, deployment of political solutions after 11 months of military presence can only mean withdrawal. As the result, America is trapped in a desert where it can neither continue its actions nor revise its earlier decisions.

Tehran Views Haitian Protest on U.S. Troops

NC1210091693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The dispatch of U.S. troops to Haiti within the framework of the United Nations has elicited vehement protests from Haiti's people. These protests were so intense that the forces were prevented from landing. Please heed a commentary on the subject:

While the Clinton government is enmeshed in the Somali crisis and seeks to find an honorable way out, the dispatch of U.S. forces in the guise of a UN force to Haiti has opened a new chapter of problems for the White House.

The first contingent of UN forces to Haiti was dispatched last week and includes mainly U.S. soldiers assigned to prepare conditions for multinational troops to enter Haiti. The UN decision to send forces to Haiti has been adopted to reinstate the deposed Haitian president. The presence of U.S. forces in this process has aroused internal and external criticism of the Clinton administration.

U.S. Senator Robert (Valley) has announced his opposition to sending U.S. soldiers to Haiti and has called on Clinton to change his policy and return the U.S. forces from Haiti. Sam Nunn, the head of the Senate's Armed Services Committee, announced that Clinton has not consulted Congress on the dispatch of forces to Haiti, although he was frequently asked to present a report to Congress on the situation in Haiti.

Although the situation in Haiti is not comparable with Somalia, Clinton's critics are apprehensive that the presence of U.S. soldiers may generate similar problems. With U.S. forces entering Haiti within the framework of the United Nations, many Haitians staged protests against the U.S. soldiers. This has heightened the concern of congressional members and increased their criticism of Clinton.

The United States' problems in grappling with international crises stem from its lacking the ability to meet its international objectives. With the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, the United States sought to project itself as the sole world power and embroiled itself in most international disputes. By using international organizations, it strove to consolidate its position. But its impotence in resolving the conflicts belied this viewpoint and proved that the White House lacks the prowess it claims to have.

No Evidence of Nuclear Arms Program Found

LD1210170693 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] London, Oct. 12, IRNA—The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) has found that Iran's military rearmament plans, compared with other countries in the Persian Gulf, are quite modest and that there is no evidence of an alleged nuclear arms program.

Basing its annual military balance report on "known facts" and not myths and propaganda, the London-based institute reported Tuesday little change in the Middle East with the Persian Gulf Arab states coming no nearer to achieving a more secure environment.

On the world front, the refusal by Ukraine to ratify START 1 was said to be the most important arms control development with the result that the disarmament treaty cannot begin to be implemented and no progress can be made on START 1 signed this year.

In Central Asia, it saw the former Soviet republics still relying on Russia for military support and believed that air defense forces would continue to be coordinated under the control of Moscow both across the region and particularly along the states' borders.

According to the 1993-94 edition of MILITARY BALANCE, which provides an up-to-date assessment of the defensive strength and expenditure of 165 countries, no evidence was found about the West's claims of either North Korea or Iran having a nuclear arms program.

It said Iran's procurement of weapons system included aircraft and missiles that may be capable of delivering nuclear munitions, but ruled out "in all probability" there were plans in the coming years for Tehran to develop its own production.

Even if there was a program, at most it was in its early stages and there was no hope to produce its own nuclear weapons before the year 2,000 at the earliest, it suggested.

IISS also disputed the rhetoric that Tehran was fuelling the rise of Islamic movements in the Middle East and North Africa, saying that although Iran was perceived as such by many states, all the movements had their own "important local roots."

Another myth used to orchestrate the image of Iran as a kind of "bogeyman" is with regard to its military rearmament, but again the institute blew away the propaganda by putting the program in context and saying it was only "modest" compared with others in the region.

In the Persian Gulf, the six littoral Arab states were seen coming no closer in achieving a secure environment, with the six-plus-two plan involving the stationing of Egyptian and Syrian troops if not dead being in an "irreversible coma."

Tactically, the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council was chastised for having no coherent regional plan for arms procurement, making little compatibility or interoperability.

If anything, the annual report said that the states appeared to have based their procurement plans on "buying friendship rather than on the most suitable weapons systems," which mainly come from Britain, France and the U.S.

Velayati Returns From UN, South Korea

NC1010081793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Our foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, who had gone to New York to participate in the 48th annual UN General Assembly session, returned to Tehran this morning.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly and his meetings with officials of nearly 50 countries, Dr. Velayati propounded and explained the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding various issues.

After leaving New York, Dr. Velayati went to South Korea, where he met various officials. On his return to Tehran, he told our correspondent: This visit was at the official invitation of the South Korean foreign minister; and our talks with South Korean officials were fruitful.

Alluding to the upcoming session of the joint commission of the two countries, Dr. Velayati said: In the course of this visit we reached an agreement on credit facilities for the purchase of some oil tankers, and some preliminaries regarding the visit of a South Korean economic delegation to Tehran, where they will also confer with Iranian banking officials on banking facilities.

Referring to South Korea's purchase of 160,000 barrels of oil per day from Iran and the volume of commercial exchanges worth $1.7 billion between the two countries, Dr. Velayati said: During these talks, the two sides concurred on infusing a greater dynamism into bilateral relations, broadening these relations even further, and for increased efforts in the fields of technology transfer and scientific and industrial cooperation.

Khamene'i Meets Islamic Jihad Leader

LD0710155993 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i commenting on the Gaza-Jericho deal, said here Thursday, "the issue of Palestine is not over yet." The leader made the remark when he received head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

"History has proven that such deals are not always to the benefit of their masterminds and that with a continuous vigorous struggle, this event will be to the detriment of the Zionist enemy," said the supreme leader.

Fathi al-Shaqaqi reported to the leader on the nature and status of anti-Zionist struggle of the Palestinian combatants in the occupied territories following the PLO-Tel Aviv compromise deal.

Al-Shaqaqi said that the PLO-Israel deal has not reduced the momentum of the Palestinian struggle. On the contrary, it has increased the determination of the Palestinian fighters to continue their struggle until materilization of their legitimate rights.

Second Meeting Held

LD1210151093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, this morning at a meeting with Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi the leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, said: The aim of the designers of peace between Arabs and the Israeli regime is to destroy the Islamic movement in the world. At this sensitive juncture in the history of Palestine, through maintaining their spirit of struggle and holy war, it is necessary for noble revolutionaries and followers of the ideas of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him, not to let the intifadah cool down and lose momentum.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said defending the ideals of Palestine is one of the strategic goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He strongly condemned the establishment of trade relations between some Arab regimes and Israel. He said: The aim of the enemies of Islam in encouraging such deeds is to break the spirit of resistance and struggle in Muslims in the occupied lands.

Before the speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine submitted a report on the latest developments in the occupied lands after the peace plan between the PLO and the Israeli regime. He emphasized the continuation of the intifadah and Islamic resistance. He said: Inspired by the ideas of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, God's mercy be on him, the Palestinian holy warriors will continue their struggle until total victory and will never make peace with the occupying Zionist regime.

Qatari Oil Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD1010214693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Qatar's minister of oil, energy, and industry arrived in Tehran on Sunday at the head of a delegation of that country's officials. During his visit the Qatari minister will visit Tehran's 19th international trade fair. He will also hold talks with the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the expansion of economic and oil cooperation between the two countries and also on issues of mutual interests between Iran and Qatar.

Gas Cooperation Body Founded

LD1110120893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] Following a meeting between our country's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Qatar's Minister of Energy and Industry 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah in Tehran today, it was announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the government of Qatar will set up a joint committee for cooperation in gas matters. Our colleague reports on this issue:

[Correspondent] During an exclusive interview with the IRI's Voice and Vision, 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah and Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said: Iran and Qatar wish to cooperate in all fields related to gas including technical matters and creation of units for production of such oil by-products as engine oil in both countries.

Al-'Attiyah described Iran-Qatar relations as strong and a good example, and added: The two countries' relations can be a constructive basis for strong ties among regional countries.

Al-'Attiyah, who is the head of the committee in charge of supervising OPEC's oil production, described the decisions made during this organization's recent session as an appropriate decision to prevent the fall of oil prices. He asked for the continuation of coordination among OPEC members to boost oil prices. He warned that the action of Europe's industrial countries to tax their oil imports is a measure envisaged by said countries at the price of an economic catastrophe for the oil-producing countries. He stressed: To solve this problem, it is necessary for the OPEC member governments to hold joint talks with the European industrial states.

It is worth mentioning that Iran and Qatar, as two OPEC members and as two countries with considerable oil and particularly gas resources, share common interests and extensive potential for cooperation. Increasing world demand for gas and huge investments in this field require greater practical cooperation between the two countries.

[Later in the same newscast, the following related item is read by the announcer: "Mr. 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah, Qatar's minister of energy and industries, who also supervises the mine and mineral affairs of that country, met and conferred this morning with Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, minister of mines and metals.

["At the meeting, the grounds for the sale of Iran's mineral and metal products in Qatar and the transport of Iran's mineral products from Qatar for export to other countries were studied. The two sides reached general agreements in this connection.

["At the meeting, Mr. Mahluji referred to the export of over 1,050,000 tonnes of steel from Iran in the past six months and said that the ministry of mines and metals was ready to export steel, especially varieties of steel sheets, to Qatar."]

Velayati Meets Minister

LD1110175893 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Qatar's minister of energy, 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah, in their meeting here on Monday described Tehran-Doha ties as a symbol of friendship.

The two sides stressed the need for expansion of ties in all fields.

Velayati hoped that economic relations between the two countries would keep pace with the expansion of Tehran-Doha political ties.

The Qatari official briefed Velayati on his talks with his Iranian counterpart, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, and announced his government's readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the area of energy and oil at international forums.

Al-'Attiyah arrived in Tehran yesterday on a four-day visit.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Oil Prices

LD1210185093 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that Iran is determined to continue efforts to stabilize oil prices in the world market through coordination with other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The president made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Qatari minister of oil, energy and industries, 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-Attiyah. He further stressed the need for a unified action by the OPEC members in adopting timely and firm decisions for preventing oil price falls.

The president further noted that overproduction and violating OPEC quotas were not in the interest of the members and added that by logic all OPEC members should observe their quotas.

Al-Attiyah praised the role of Iran in the recent OPEC meeting and also telephone conversations of President Rafsanjani with a number of heads of state of oil producing countries for stabilizing oil prices.

"Definitely, in the absence of such measures oil prices would have dropped further, mainly damaging the oil producing countries," al-Attiyah said. The Qatari minister also expressed interest in greater regional cooperation and Tehran-Doha relations, in particular. He said Qatar is for broadening its cooperation with Iran in export of natural gas and at international level.

The Qatari minister arrived in Tehran Sunday heading a high-ranking delegation at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Oil Cooperation Document Signed

LD1310115193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 903

[Text] Talks in Tehran between officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the government of Qatar were concluded after a memorandum of understanding was signed by our country's oil minister [Aqazadeh-Kho'i] and Qatar's minister of energy and industries [Al-'Atutag]. The memorandum embraces cooperation within the framework of OPEC, as well as bilateral cooperation in the fields of natural gas and oil.

The Qatari delegation left Tehran for Doha today.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar stress in the memorandum of understanding the need for OPEC members to adhere to the quotas set at the OPEC meeting [not specified]. The two countries further express their profound concern over the imposition of tax on oil by major oil consumer countries, and agree to pursue a joint policy to counteract this move within the framework of the OPEC and other international organizations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the government of Qatar also agree to form a joint technical committee in order to make possible greater coordination in the technical and economic aspects of oil and natural gas production and to facilitate the implementation of joint projects. This committee, which will meet twice a year, will convene its first session in Bahman 1372 [21 January-21 February 1994] in Doha.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran agrees to cooperate with Qatar in the fields of engineering, construction, the building of engine plants, oil refineries, and also exploration work on oil and gas wells.

Bangledeshi Parliament Speaker Pays Visit

LD0910110293 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Oct. 9, IRNA—The visiting parliament speaker of Bangladesh Sheikh Razzaq Ali here Friday called for promotion of diplomatic, social and economic ties with Iran.

The official, who arrived here Thursday night, was speaking at a luncheon given in his honour by Fars Governor General Mohammad 'Alinaqi Jahromi.

Razzaq Ali noted that 110 million out of 120 million population of Bangladesh were Muslims, therefore, his country was interested in social and political aspects of life in Iran. He underlined the need for unity of Muslim countries to prevent oppression and massacre of Muslims in various parts of the world, including Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The official said that presence of Bangladeshi physicians in this southern Iranian province was a sign of bilateral cooperation, adding that the two sides could also coopeate in economic fields. Welcoming the proposal, the governor general said the province was ready to exchange goods with Bangladesh and set up exhibitions to display goods produced in that country.

Razzaq Ali, heading a parliamentary delegation, arrived in Tehran on Wednesday on a four-day visit.

Meets With Habibi

LD0910162593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Shaykh Razzaq Ali, speaker of the Bangladeshi parliament, met and conferred with First Vice President [Hasan] Habibi this afternoon.

According to a Central News Unit report, the speaker of the Bangladeshi parliament stressed during the course of the meeting the expansion of his country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in political, cultural, and economic fields.

During the same meeting, Habibi also pointed out the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to expand relations with regional states such as Bangladesh and said: The history of our country and the entire Indian subcontinent is thousands of years old and, apart from that history, the two nations of Iran and Bangladesh also have common bonds in Islamic culture and civilization.

Meets With Nateq-Nuri

NC1110094093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The speaker of the Bangladeshi parliament left Tehran for his country this morning after a brief visit. He was seen off by the Islamic Majles speaker.

Speaking to our correspondent, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri commented on his talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart at the airport and said:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] In the few days that he was here, he took some trips to Shiraz and Esfahan, which he found very interesting, especially the historical sites and Iran's cultural heritage. The most important issues that were discussed with him were Iranian-Bangladeshi relations, especially in the economic field for which, fortunately, the preliminaries had been completed. It was stressed that a joint economic commission should be established as soon as possible, and God willing, the official representing the Iranian side in the commission, the esteemed Construction Jihad Minister Foruzesh, will visit Bangladesh on 20 October and this joint commission will be set up.

We also discussed the setting up of an Iranian-Bangladeshi parliamentary friendship group, and we proposed that they should select their representatives; we are ready to set up such a group. Another issue that we exchanged views on and proposed was that we should set up an Islamic interparliamentary union; I am pursuing this matter as well. I have mentioned this to all the parliamentary speakers of the Islamic countries who have visited Iran, and they have welcomed the idea. I hope that they cooperate so we can begin to forge closer relations and unity among Islamic countries; we should do whatever we can. In my opinion, this is one of the effective ways of acting—that is, the creation of an Islamic interparliamentary group such as the Islamic Conference Organization, and heads of Islamic countries and so on. This would be useful. The Bangladeshi speaker also welcomed it. God willing, we hope that it will materialize. [end recording]

Twenty Arrested With Narcotics; Bombs, Weapons Seized

LD1210190193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The Intelligence Ministry Public Relations office announced that a 20-person gang affiliated with the hypocrites' [monafeqin, referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq, MKO] mini-group, which had been involved in transporting narcotics from Zahedan through the northwest of the country to Turkey and Europe, was identified and arrested during the past 15 days in the provinces of Khuzestan, Ilam, Tehran and Kerman.

The gang comprises 13 professional smugglers, four hypocrites dispatched from Iraq, two men, and a woman, who were internal agents of the hypocrites mini-groups.

In addition to transporting and distributing narcotics, the hypocrites intended to embark on a series of provocative acts and bombings in Mehr [month beginning 23 September], but before doing anything they were arrested.

Eighteen weapons, 80 bombs, 380 kg of opium and about 400 propaganda publications about the hypocrites mini-group, together with a number of forged documents, were seized from the gang.

Further on Operation

NC1310093293 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 13 (AFP)—Security forces have killed 10 armed bandits, wounded several others and seized 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of opium in a ground and air operation in southern Iran, ABRAR newspaper said Wednesday.

Soldiers also seized a number of light weapons during the "massive" raid against the bandits' hideouts near Golbaf in Kerman province, it said. They had been accused of kidnapping, extortion and distribution of narcotics in Kerman.

Kerman is a hotbed of drug smuggling in Iran, and hundreds of bandits and traffickers have been killed in clashes with the security forces in the past several months.

Besharati Named 'State Security Council' Chief

LD0510120293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has issued separate decrees appointing Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi as chairman of the State Security Council [ra'is-e showra-ye amniyat-e keshvar] and as deputy head of the Headquarters for Combating Narcotics.

One of the decrees addressed to the interior minister states: In order to facilitate the current activities and affairs of the State Security Council and, in accordance with Clause 4, Article 176 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, your excellency has been appointed as chairman of the State Security Council.

Railway Begun To Link Central Asia to Gulf

LD1110170893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The construction of the Sarakhs-Mashhad electric railway line started yesterday in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The Sarakhs-Mashhad railway project is the first electric railway line in the Islamic Republic of Iran which connects Iran's railway network to the railways of Central Asian republics via Turkmenistan.

With the laying of the Mashhad-Sarakhs and Bafq-Mashhad railway lines, Central Asian countries will have access to the Persian Gulf via the Islamic Republic of Iran railways.

Bridges with a total span of 5,800 meters will be built in the project.

During the ceremony marking the start of construction work on Sarakhs-Mashhad electric railway line, a report was submitted to the president on the implementation schedule of the project.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Concludes Khorasan Visit

NC1110085493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpts] As you have heard in the news for the past few days, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been on a 4-day visit to the various cities of the Khorasan province and met the people at close quarters.

Before his departure from Mashhad, the president spoke to correspondents and elaborated on the outcome of this visit. Our correspondent from Mashhad center reports on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's interview:

[Unidentified correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a news conference at the end of his 4-day visit to Khorasan Province and commented on the outcome of his visit to the province. He stated that the multifaceted and tumultuous presence of the devout and revolutionary people in the various parts of Khorasan Province was reminiscent of the epic-making memories of the early days of the revolution and a prominent example of their loyalty and complete support for the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Referring to his separate meetings with the people and officials of the cities of Mashhad, Fariman, Torbat-e Jam, Tayyebat, Khaf, Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Roshkhar, Kashmar, and Kenaran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In my talks with the officials and staff of the executive departments in these cities and the province, various problems, needs, and the progress attained in various areas such as agriculture, industry, animal husbandry, mining, handicrafts, and cottage industries were assessed and appraised. Fortunately, with the noteworthy efforts of the officials and the people's cooperation, the pace of the work has been remarkable and in some departments we have attained outstanding results.

The president added: The infrastructural needs and problems of Khorasan Province, such as the expansion of the railroad network, the establishment of the steel industry, and the reactivation of the Tabas iron ore mines and the Sangan collieries, were also discussed. We hope that in the second 5-year plan the necessary attention and planning will be carried out in this regard. [passage omitted]

Enumerating the outstanding results of his visit to the border cities of Tayyebat, Torbat-e Jam, and Khaf, the president stated: The unity between the Sunnis and the Shiites, the closeness of the Sunni and Shiite 'ulema were the salient points that highlighted this visit. We did not sense any vestige of discord or differences in the vast gatherings of the resilient and contented people of these regions, and this is proof of the ineffectiveness of the ill-omened plots of the enemies of Islam.

He added: Despite their deprivation and the fact they are playing host to hundreds of thousands of Muslim Afghan refugees, the people of these three border cities continue to be present on the scene of the revolution and to support the system with the same zeal and enthusiasm. This is most exemplary.

The president said that the peace and complete security in these border regions—despite the inauspicious activities of international smugglers in disrupting the peace along the borders—was the result of the selflessness and effort of the law enforcement forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Intelligence Department, and was due to the firm solidarity between the Sunnis and Shiites. He said: This solidarity and cooperation can be a suitable model for emulation for all our people and for the Islamic world.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then recounted the activities in the construction of dams in the country by local experts and alluded to the work being carried out on the Martyr Ya'qubi Dam in Torbat-e Heydariyeh and added: We have reached self-sufficiency in the field of dam construction in the country; and local experts are able to construct small and large dams here.

Continuing his remarks at this news conference, Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad link as a national and international project and stated: With the completion of this plan, in addition with the linking of Central Asian countries with one another, the country's transit ability will also expand.

'Vulnerable Masses' To Receive Pension

LD1110124193 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Oct. 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday said that government will propose a motion to the Majles in a near future to provide further support for vulnerable masses in the society.

Rafsanjani, currently on an inspection tour of the province, told reporters that on the basis of the motion the government will pay pension to members of the said classes. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Appoints Arak Friday Prayers Leader

LD1310111193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, has issued a decree appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Sheykh Ahmad Mohseni-Garakani as his representative to the Central Province and as the Friday prayers leader of Arak.

Ahmad Khomeyni on Economic Problems

LD1010113293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni addressed a gathering of members of Tehran Municipality's Mobilization headquarters, families of martyrs, self-sacrificing devotees, the war wounded, and a group of people from the town of Eqlid this morning. He praised martyrs of the Islamic revolution and said: The setting up of popular mobilization cells is one of the aspirations of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also stressed the need for people's participation in the country's reconstruction and development, and said: If the country's economic problems are not solved and the country does not carry out its reconstruction and development tasks, then it is certain that we will have departed from the true path of the Islamic revolution and the line of his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

Pakistan

Final Provincial Assembly Election Results Released

BK1010084093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0810 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] The final party distribution in the 240-seat Punjab assembly is as follows:

- Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group—106
- Pakistan People's Party—94
- Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group —18
- Independents—17
- National Democratic Alliance—2
- Pakistan Islamic Front—2
- Muttaheda Deeni Mahaz—1

The final party distribution in the Sind Assembly is as follows:

- Pakistan People's Party—56
- Haq Parst Group [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group]—27
- Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group—8
- Independents—5
- National People's Party—2
- Shahid Bhutto Committee [Murtaza Bhutto's party] - 1

Election in one constituency was postponed due to the assassination of a candidate.

The final party distribution in 40-seat Balochistan Assembly is as follows:

- Independents—9
- Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group—6
- Jamhoori Watan party—5
- Balochistan National Movement-Hai Group 4
- Pakhtoonhwa Milli Awami Party—4
- Pakistan People's Party—3
- Islami Jamhoori Mahaz [Islamic Democratic Front]—3
- Balochistan National Movement-Mengal group—2
- Pakistan National Party—1
- Dehat Ittehad [Rural Unity] Party—1
- Awami National Party—1
- Muttaheda Deeni Mahaz—1

The party distribution in the 80-seat Northwest Frontier Province Assembly is as follows:

- Pakistan People's Party—22
- Awami National Party—20
- Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group—15
- Independents—11
- Pakistan Islamic Front—4
- Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group—4
- Muttaheda Deeni Mahaz—1
- Jamiat-i-Mushaiq-i-Pakistan—1
- Islami Jamhoori Mahaz—1

The result from one constituency is awaited.

Voter Turnout 43 Percent

BK1010144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Hectic political contacts are underway by political parties for formation of governments in the provinces and at the federal level. Reports say party leaders are busy approaching various small parties, groups, and individuals to muster support. Various parties are convening meetings of their winning candidates to evolve a strategy.

With the announcement of results to the elections of the four provincial assemblies, the process of general elections 1993 has been completed. In Sind, Pakistan People's Party has gained a clear majority, while in the other three provinces, no single is in a position to form a government on its own. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, which has emerged as the single largest party in the Punjab assembly, has bagged 106 seats, which does not constitute a simple majority. Pakistan People's Party has won 94 seats and Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo group 18 seats. [passage omitted]

The overall voters' turnout in the elections to the four provincial assemblies has been 43 percent.

PTV correspondent reports after completion of the provincial assembly polls, no political party has been able to get the majority to form a government, except Pakistan People's Party which has emerged victorious in Sind with 56 seats. In Punjab, NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], and Balochistan, the political parties have failed to gain enough seats required for the formation of the government. In these provinces, small parties and independents will play a vital role in the formation of government.

No political party has the simple majority to form the federal government. Pakistan People's Party and its political ally Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo group have 92 seats and have an edge over their archrival, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, which has 72 seats.

Bhutto Says PPP To Form Federal, Provincial Governments

BK1010160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has said that the provincial elections prove the people of Pakistan desire a two-party system to run the affairs of the state. In an interview in Lahore today, she claimed that her party is in a position to form governments at the federal and provincial levels.

[Begin Bhutto recording] As long as the provincial election results had not been announced, we were very anxious about whether Pakistan would be able to achieve political stability. The provincial election results, however, prove that the nation does not want to see the confrontation between the federation and the provinces that existed before; this is the reason they have elected only these parties at both the federal and provincial levels. Obviously, after the election process, the difference in seats between the two parties is very small, but it does not matter whether the difference is less or more. I understand that it is a matter of satisfaction for Pakistan that my party, the PPP, and our allies will form governments both in the provinces and at the federal level. It will strengthen democracy in the country. It was also necessary for the stability of Pakistan and in which [words indistinct].

Several points of the economic package [announced by the caretaker government] were derived from our own election manifesto. We will not face any difficulty in this regard, but we will review the entire economic package to see how much success has been achieved in the realization of the objectives and how much flexibility has been created. We will offer our proposals to the nation after making decisions based on our review of the package. [end recording]

Regarding the caretaker government's economic package, she said that certain points of the package were also part of the PPP's election manifesto.

Talking to foreign correspondents, Benazir Bhutto said her party will form the government at the federal level and establish coalition governments in the provinces with the support of the allied parties.

Bhutto said foreign investment will be encouraged, to increase power generation in the country.

On the Kashmir problem, the PPP cochairperson said the issue should be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions. She said we are in favor of Pakistan extending diplomatic and moral support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the realization of their right of self-determination.

Answering a question about nuclear proliferation, Benazir Bhutto said the countries that believe in nuclear nonproliferation should use their influence to resolve this issue at the regional level.

Further Comments on Nonproliferation, Kashmir

BK1010132093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Oct 10 (AFP)—Benazir Bhutto, hopeful of becoming Pakistan's next prime minister, vowed here Sunday [10 October] her government would pursue nuclear non-proliferation and seek a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute with Inida.

"We are non-proliferationists, we want to work for nuclear non- proliferation in this region," she told reporters following conclusion of the two-stage Pakistan elections.

But, she stressed a regional approach toward the nuclear issue saying Pakistan could not take any "unilateral steps," reflecting a long-standing offer by Islamabad that rival India should be part of a non-proliferation arrangement.

She welcomed a recent policy framework on the nuclear issue by U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration, terming it a "good working paper."

"We can take if further and develop it," she added.

A PPP government would strive to convince Washington to review the Pressler Law, which prohibits aid to countries pursuing weapon- oriented nuclear programmes and under which the U.S. cut off assistance to Pakistan in 1990.

"Today the Pressler (law) is an effective veto in the hands of India," Bhutto said.

"We are interested in non-proliferation and believe that all those countries who are interested in non-proliferation must now use their influence in this region to get India and Pakistan to have a regional solution."

Voicing "full diplomatic support" for what she called the ongoing struggle for self-determination in Kashmir, Bhutto said "for too long India has believed that Kashmir is a Pakistani-sponsored problem."

It will be "our endeavour" to convince India to give up this attitude, she said, recalling that the "genesis" of the problem lay in the 1947 partition of the sub-continent.

The pledge of a plebiscite for Kashmiris to choose between union with Pakistan or India was not fulfilled, leading to a sense of grievance and alienation among the people, she said.

During the past 46 years, India could have won the hearts and minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but it failed to do so, she said.

"In fact with every passing year the people grew more alienated. So it's not a Pakistani problem, its a global problem and the right to self-determination cannot be denied."

The two countries should avoid a "path of confrontation and tension" as neither could afford this, she said.

Bhutto recounted what she called a "giant step foward in our relationship" when in 1989 when she and late Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi brought about a bilateral agreement not to attack each other's nuclear facilities.

She said shortly before his death, Gandhi had admitted that Kashmir was a problem related to the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and not a Pakistani-sponsored problem.

"India has to see it in that perspective and stop blaming Pakistan," Bhutto said, expressing the hope that his successor P.V. Narasimha Rao "has the same vision and breadth of understanding."

"I don't think that acts of terrorism will resolve the issue, but I do believe that a peaceful political struggle is essential to achieve the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

India accuses Pakistan of backing the four-year old Moslem insurgency in its part of Kashmir with arms and training. Islamabad denies the charges and says it only gives moral political support to the Kashmiri freedom movement.

Most Minority Legislators Said To Support Bhutto

BK1010163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Excerpt] In Pakistan, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said her party is confident of forming the government at the federal level and in the two most populous provinces—Punjab and Sind. She was talking to newsmen in Lahore after the PPP gained a majority in the Sind assembly and its alliance with the Muslim League-Junejo [PML-J] group emerged as the largest combine in the Punjab assembly. Our Islamabad correspondent reports that both Ms. Benazir Bhutto and her rival, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, are making frantic efforts to establish their respective governments in Punjab province. They are trying to secure the support of the independents, who total 17. Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League secured 106 seats in this key province while the PPP-PML-J combine bagged 112 in the 240-member house. Of this, the PPP has 94 and the PML-Junejo group 18. The chief of PML-Junejo group, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chattha, while addressing a news conference in Lahore, ruled out switching support to Mr. Nawaz Sharif. He reaffirmed his continued alliance with Ms. Bhutto's party both at the provincial level and in the National Assembly, where his party has six seats.

Our correspondent reports that a majority of the 10 minority members in the National Assembly have pledged their support to Ms. Bhutto. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Sees Sharif in 'Effective Opposition' Role

BK1110152993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said that other than forming governments at the center, in Punjab and in Sind, her party will also be successful in forming governments in Northwest Frontier Province and Balochistan with the cooperation of other parties. Talking to newsmen in Karachi today, she said we have established contacts with those members of the National Assembly who have been elected as Independents and the minorities candidates and now we enjoy the support of more than 105 members of the National Assembly. She said she held talks with Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group leader Hamid Nasir Chattha in Lahore yesterday. It was felt during the talks that if there is any change in the parliamentary leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, a wider coalition government, including that party, could be formed. She, however, said that her party favors Mohammad Nawaz Sharif playing his role as an effective opposition leader.

Calls Elections Fair

BK1210162093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan People's Party [PPP] cochairperson, has said the recent polls were by all means fair and free and we accept the people's verdict. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad after her arrival from Karachi this afternoon, she said the caretaker government and the Armed Forces deserve the nation's full praise for holding the elections in a transparent manner. She added that if any party—including the PPP—did not win the number of seats it expected to, it did not mean that the polls were rigged.

Asked about the prospects of forming governments at the federal and provincial levels, Benazir Bhutto said her party was confident of forming governments at the federal and provincial levels, but she did not want to enter into a numbers game.

Benazir Bhutto said she believed in a positive style of functioning, and expected the same from the other side. Answering a question on whether there are prospects for forming a stable government after the general elections, she said stability is a relative term. She added that after the 1990 elections, the former government did not bring stable government to the country despite having a big majority at the federal and provincial levels.

Receives Assurance From Army Chief

BK1210074793 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 11 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Lahore—Ms. Benazir Bhutto telephoned Army Chief General Abdul Waheed yesterday and congratulated him on conducting free and impartial elections. She expressed the hope that the new government will now complete its full term. Sources say that Gen. Abdul Waheed assured Ms. Bhutto that power will be transferred only to the majority party.

Bhutto, Muslim League Leader Speak on Government Prospects

BK1210025693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has said that the PPP is in a position to form the government at the federal level in cooperation with its allies. She was informally talking to reporters in Karachi yesterday. She said that she would like to have good relations with the opposition and no confrontation.

Sartaj Aziz, secretary general of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, told reporters in Islamabad yesterday that his party will keep all options and means open until 14 October and will try to form the government either at the federal level or in Punjab, wherever there is a better chance for it. He said that the Awami National Party has offered the post of chief minister to his party in the North-West Frontier Province. He said that his party is in a better position to form a coalition government in Balochistan. Answering a question, he said that besides the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, negotiations are also under way with other groups and independent candidates.

Sharif, Bhutto Contact Parties, Leaders To Form Govenment

BK1110025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party contacted Pakistan Islamic Front leader Qazi Hussain Ahmad by telephone yesterday and discussed the country's situation and other matters of mutual interest.

Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group President Hamid Nasir Chattha met with Ms. Benazir Bhutto in Lahore yesterday and exchanged views with her on forming a coalition government at the federal level.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, was busy in consultations with various political parties and groups yesterday. Speaking to the national and provincial assembly members from various localities in Lahore, he claimed that his party is in a position to form a government at the federal level. He said some elected independent members and parties have contacted him and discussed the situation. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting party sources, said that a special emissary of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif called on Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the Secretary General of Jamiat-i- Ulama-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman group, in Dera Ismail Khan yesterday and handed him a message from Nawaz Sharif.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the parliamentary party and Central Working Committee of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group is being held in Islamabad today. The secretary general of the party, Senator Sartaj Aziz, has said that the meeting will discuss in detail the political situation and will review various aspects to form the government.

Sharif Views Possibility of Forming Governments

BK1110145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] In Islamabad today, the president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, presided over a joint meeting of his party's Central Executive Committee, office bearers, allied parties, and their elected members. After the meeting, he told newsmen:

[Begin recording] [Sharif] We have clear-cut majority in the provinces, like ANP [Awami National Party] and Muslim League both can together form government in the Province of Frontier. In Balochistan, with our smaller parties, we can form a coalition. Then, of course, in Punjab, Muslim League is the largest party in Punjab with the highest mandate. So, we are 106 [seats out of 240 in Punjab Assembly]. We need another 14, and I think there is a long list of independents. Insha Allah [Godd willing] we hope we will be able to form the government there because People's Party there has 94.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the center?

[Sharif] Insha Allah, at the center we are very confident, but now after the provincial elections things are very clear and the chances of forming government at the center are now brighter. [end recording]

PML (N) Alleges Election Irregularities

BK1210165793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] ISLAMABAD—While several leaders belonging to PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)z] and its elected parties alleged on Monday [11 October] that the 1993 elections were "manipulated and engineered", the first joint meeting of those parties decided to try to form governments both at the centre [federal level] and Punjab.

They also reviewed their determination not to allow PPP leader Benazir Bhutto to form government in the centre, pledging to put a hard political fight against PPP, both in and outside the Parliament.

They also agreed not to form a PML(N)-PPP government in the centre, declaring that the October election were aimed at bringing "instability" in the country.

These decision were taken in the first joint meeting of the MN's- elect, belonging to PML(N), ANP and their allies, held at the PML Central Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by central leaders of those parties, which decided to make PML(N) president Nawaz Sharif as their parliamentary leader in the National Assembly. "Elections were manipulated," said ANP leader Begum Nasim Wail Khan, while talking to newsmen after the meeting. However, when the same question was put to Nawaz Sharif, he parried the question saysing, "Do not try to get it from my month."

In a press briefing about the day-long meeting, the PML(N) spokesman confirmed that several members expressed their views on the question of manipulation and engineering of the elections. Specifically, the spokesman quoted Senator Raja Zafard Haq and Senator Mohammad Ali Khan of Hoti, who termed that "Elections were engineered and people have doubts about the fairness of those elections."

Talking to newsmen twice, president PML(N) Nawaz Sharif said, "we will form the future government at the centre, but not at a heavy cost, we will not indulge in the curse of horse-trading to purchase the loyalties of the members in other of the bosses." He accused PPP of resorting to horse-trading in a bid to form its government. "Members are being purchased by PPP at the cost of Rs 15 million each."

He said his party in cooperation with the allies is in a position to form coalition governments in Punjab, NWFP and Balochistan and "Inshallah [God willing], we will form the government in the centre." The centre, he said, can not be run without the support of these three provinces.

"Although both the major parties have rights to form government in the centre, but I think the future central government will be a weak government", he added. Denying that he had held talks with PML(J) leader Harmid Nazir Chattha, Nawaz Sharif said that with the support of 14 independents the PML(N) will form government in Punjab.

When asked about any possible demand for another election in March next year, he said, "Look at our track record and those who tried to destabilize the system." He, however, parried the questions. He said, "the PML-(N) is not happy with the outcome of those elections because of split mandate."

Begum Nasim Wah said that in an organized manner, the political system had destabilised. "It was early drum beating that the elections were free, fair and impartial."

Briefing newsman, PML-(N) Secretary-General Sartaj Aziz said that "the claims of PPP to form the government in centre and Punjab are pre-mature and unrealistic."

He said the joint meeting of PML-(N) and allied parties will be held again on October 14 to evolve a strategy for the battle of centre and provinces.

Besides Nawaz Sharif, ANP Chief Ajmal Khattak, Ghous Ali Shah, President PML-(N) Women wing Begum Ishrat Ashraf, Raja Zafarul Haq, Mohammad Ali Khan of Hoti and some other spoke in the meeting. Majority of them levelled accusations on the caretakers, accusing that they had played a partial role in the elections.

They also termed "the game of elections as dangerous" so that instability hits this country. "The elections were nothing, but a conspiracy," they said in the meeging.

Nawaz Sharif, who paid rich tributes to assassinated PML-(N) Punjab Chief Ghulam Hyder Wyne, said that the PML (N) had got a big success by securing highest percentage of votes throughout the country. "Now the party of Quaid-e-Asam has become the most popular party of the country", he added.

Ajmal Khattak said that "when the dust of elections will be settled, many startling facts will come to surface." Ghous Ali Shah said that Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had played a key role in ending ethnic, sectarian and provincialism in Pakistan.

Senator Mohammad Ali criticised the role of caretakers, claiming that "people have doubts on the fairness of polls."

M Hamza said that it was a conspiracy on the part of someone when the caretaker Prime Minister suggested a coalition government of PPP-PML-(N) in the centre.

Raja Zafarul Haq asked the caretakers as to why it is interested to get certaificate from everyone on the fairness of elections. "This reflects their hidden intention as caretakers remained partial since they assumed power." He said the elections were engineered and "it was an attempt to keep PML-(N) out of the power corridor."

He said election were enforced on the nation and results of these could not brought stability in the country.

Begum Ishrat Ashraf also spoke on the occasion. Insiders say that separate rounds of talks were held on the possibility of uniting the two faction of Muslim League, with different kind of compromising formulas.

However, the leaguer often avoided to discuss even a single word on this.

Muslim League Faction Denies Merger With Sharif Party

BK1110162293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group has said that there is no point in talking to Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, chief of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, until he quits the party leadership and gives up his efforts to become prime minister. In a statement in Islamabad today, the spokesman strongly refuted the impression being created in certain quarters about an alliance between the two factions of the Pakistan Muslim League. He said leaders of both groups of the Pakistan Muslim League have met and exchanged views, but it is wrong to give the impression of forming any alliance at this stage.

In a press statement, Sartaj Aziz, secretary general of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, criticized Hamid Nasir Chattha's suggestion that if Mohammad Nawaz Sharif wants to unite various factions of the Pakistan Muslim League, he should quit the party leadership. He said the suggestion is bereft of all logic; it is because of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif that the Pakistan Muslim League has emerged for the first time as one of the two main political parties in the country, and he is a popular leader in all four provinces of Pakistan.

Qureshi Foresees Stable Coalition Government

BK1010063893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said he is confident that after the general elections a coalition government will be set up which will complete its five-year term. In an interview with Radio Pakistan in Islamabad this evening, he said the nation needs a strong and effective government. The situation will become clear on 19 October when the new prime minister is elected.

Regarding the performance of the caretaker government, the prime minister said we have accomplished some tasks with sincerity and honesty and wish to complete the unfinished work. He said it is gratifying that the elections for the national and provincial assemblies were held in a peaceful and open manner. In a message to the nation, Moin Qureshi said:

[Begin Qureshi recording] At this moment, I would like to give only this message to the nation that we very much need a government which can remain in office for the next five years. I am confident that the nation will get such a government. [end recording].

Comments on Election Results

BK1210050793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has expressed the belief that the leaders of the two major parties which have been successful in the National Assembly elections are responsible and patriotic persons and the elected government will be in the hands of first rate people. He was addressing a reception hosted by him in honor of the diplomatic representatives based in Islamabad last night. He said that the election results have brought to the fore two political parties which enjoy the support of the majority of people in Pakistan. He said that there is considerable similarity of views between the two parties on economic issues and foreign policy, which is a very positive aspect. He said that this is the first time in the country that the elections have been declared free, fair, and impartial, adding that it will provide a foundation for the establishment of a democratic system in the country.

Moin Qureshi also mentioned the country's foreign policy objectives and said that Pakistan desires friendly ties with all countries of the world, especially its neighboring ones. He said that although Pakistan does not have any aggressive designs against any country, it is however committed to safeguarding its national independence and territorial integrity with its defense capability. The prime minister said that Pakistan desires peace all over the world, including in its own region, and this is why it is supporting UN peacekeeping operations in a number of countries.

President Wants Prompt Transfer of Power in Provinces

BK1110153393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] As hectic political activities are continuing for the formation of government at the federal and provincial levels, the National Assembly is meeting on Friday [15 October] for the oath taking of the newly elected members of the lower house. The House will elect the speaker and the deputy speaker on Sunday. The nomination papers for the office of the speaker and the deputy speaker could be filed by Saturday before 1400. The session will be presided over by the present speaker. However, if he is also a candidate for the post, any other member nominated by the president will preside over the session. The House will elect the leader of the house on 19th of this month.

The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has said that transfer of power at the provincial level should take place without any delay. The president said the provincial governments should make necessary arrangements for this purpose in accordance with the Constitution, rules, and procedures of the assemblies concerned. The acting president made the statement while presiding over a high-level meeting in Islamabad today. The acting governors of the four provinces attended the meeting.

President Mr. Wasim Sajjad expressed complete satisfaction over the successful completion of national and provincial assembly elections. He greatly appreciated the role played by the provincial governments in making excellent arrangements for maintaining law and order and creating a conducive atmosphere in which the voters felt fully secure while exercising their right of franchise. The president said the fairness of the caretaker federal and provincial governments has been acknowledged both at home and abroad. The foreign observers missions, who watched the election process had also stated that the elections were held in a fair, impartial, and transparent manner.

Spokesman Notes Concern Over Afghanistan, Condemns India

BK1310150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman said a delegation comprising representatives from Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan is likely to visit Afghanistan to bring about a reconcilitation among various factions. He said the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, in a message delivered in Kabul has urged President Rabbani and Prime Minister Hekmatyar to avoid any action that may lead to further hostilities and resolve differences through a dialogue.

The spokesman condemned the recent attacks by Indian troops on the UN military observers while carrying duties along the Line of Control.

On Somalia, the spokesman said Pakistan welcomes the recent statement of President Clinton stressing the need for political solution in Somalia.

The spokesman also appreciated efforts being made by Ethiopia and Eritrea for political reconciliation in that country.

Indian Troops Reportedly Fire on UN Observer

BK1210142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Indian troops from across the Line of Control fired on a Pakistan-based UN military observer who had been there to investigate a cease-fire violation recently. The UN observer, however, escaped unhurt. APP says the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan is lodging a formal protest with the Indian authorities against this cowardly act.

According to details, Major (Denstrom Bengt) of Sweden went to the (Kwirata) area to investigate a cease-fire violation. Though carrying a UN flag, he was engaged with light machine-gun fire from Indian position.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Actions in Somalia

BK0910101193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Oct 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Operation Hope Part II"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton's decision to send in 5,000 fresh troops into Somalia has come up against stiff opposition from law makers in Washington still suffering from the Vietnam syndrome. Clinton tried to persudade congressmen, whom he met for a closed door debate on the subject, that the troops would not engage in battle against the warlord Farah Aidid but would take part in relief work for humanitarian reasons. This change in the President's thinking comes after pictures of the body of a US serviceman being dragged by frenzied crowds caused a furore in the United States. Once again television coverage has succeded in reversing US policies. Tragically this only seems to occur when the United States own citizens are involved. Far more gruesome picture coming out of the bloody Balkans have been received with classic dithering and a shaking of heads.

The US went into Somalia with great fanfare as the great white hope for the starving African country. The world was told to cheer as marines and US troops helped food convoys through terrain which was under the away of wariords. Once the US had its share of the limelight as a superpower with a heart of gold it left the UN to deal with the waroids and the simmering harted. Most of the hard work and danger fell to the lot of Pakistani soldiers who were asked to hold the line. The Pakistani soldiers who were asked to hold the line. The Pakistanis did not have airconditioned tents nor were they property equipped to conduct a low intensity war. When the warlords emerged from hiding they adopted a patriotic, nationalist stance and took on what they called a foreign invasion, with bullets. What followed was a spiral of violence which led to a cat and mouse game between UN forces and Farah Aidid. Everytime Aidid appeared and disappeared he became more of a hero than a villain in the eyes of his own people. The UN was placed in an embarassing situation. The people of Somalia looked more upon them as the agents of imperialism infrining on their sovereignty. The faint outlines of a national liberation struggle are now visible, aided and abetted by the highly charged speeches of Aidid.

The Americans have lost 24 of its sevicemen in Somalia and the Pakistanis 32. Over 250 UN trooped have been wounded in what has slowly escalated into a classic guerllia war. Food at the cost of freedom is not acceptable to the Somali leadership now fighting for turf. Clinton is probably aware of this. So long as the UN forces were distributing food it got good press. The moment it enlarged its role to policing and politicking it lost its moral high ground.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani soldiers are at risk and our government must understand that the Somalis, now fighting the Blue Helmets, do not necessarily understand our presence there. Somalia is a Muslim country and the fact that Pakistani soldiers have to use firearms against fellow Muslim is not an easy one to swallow. Both for the soldiers in Mongadishu and his countrymen at home.

Chinese Embassy Issues Statement on Nuclear Weapons

BK0910100593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 8: The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Friday [8 October] issued a statement saying that it is entirely for the purpose of self-defence that China devlops and possesses a small number of nuclear weapons.

While reaffiring its commitment to preserving peace, security, stability in the world, China said she was ready to continue working tirelessly together with the international community for an early realisation of the ultimate goal of world-wide prohibition and through elimination of nuclear weapons.

In the policy statement, China has undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapons states or nuclear-fires zones.

The statement reiterated that China has all along stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and a comprehensive nuclear test ban in this context. Proceeding from this basic position China has always exercised utmost restraint on nuclear testing and the number of the nuclear tests it has conducts is extremely limited.

The statement says China fully understands the sincere desire of the non-nuclear states for an early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty through negotiations and believes that such a treaty has its positive signficance.

While supporting its early conclusion, China will take an active part in the negotiation process and work together with other countries to conclude this treaty no later than 1996.

It said that China believes that a pledge by all nuclear-weapon states not to use nuclear weapons at all is of greater significence as it is a more effective step towards the non-proliferation goal underscored by the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. To this end, China has strongly called for a parallel negotiation by all nuclear-weapon states aimed at concluding an international convention on unconditional non first-use and non- threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and nuclear-free zones.

Sri Lanka

Court Restores Opposition Rule in Councils

BK0810070693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Colombo, Oct 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's court of appeal Friday held that the ruling party had hijacked control over two key provincial councils and ordered power to be restored to the opposition.

The three-judge bench, in a unanimous judgement, said the action of governors of the Southern and Northwestern provincial councils in appointing ruling party men as chief ministers was "unreasonable and illegal."

The judges ordered that the governors make fresh appointments. "This time it must be done according to the law," the judgement said. The court also awarded costs to the opposition.

The combined opposition had a narrow lead of one seat in the 55-member Southern council and two in the 52-member North Western council after the May elections to the semi-autonomous local government bodies.

The opposition challenged the appointment of the ruling United National Party's [UNP] M.S. Amarasiri and Gamini Jayawickrema Perera as chief ministers to the two councils. The court upheld the opposition argument.

It was not immediately known whether the UNP of President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge would appeal to the higher Supreme Court.

Police Fire on Opposition

BK1210131093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1048 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Colombo, Oct 12 (AFP)—At least two people died Tuesday when police in southern Sri Lanka opened fire on hundreds of opposition activists celebrating the appointment of a new chief minister, officials and witnesses said. Police opened fire on a procession that was celebrating the appointment of opposition member Amarasiri Dodangoda as chief minister of the southern provincial council, officials said.

The violence erupted after police turned down a request from opposition supporters to stage a rally to mark Dodangoda's ascension to office, witnesses said. Opposition activists then turned violent and started attacking the Galle police station with stones provoking guards to open fire, a senior police officer said by telephone from the region.

"Our men first tried to disperse them with teargas. Two were killed. Some others were wounded. We are investigating the incident," said the officer, adding the situation had been brought under control.

The incident came shortly after Governor Bakeer Markar appointed Dodangoda from the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) as chief minister under a court order restoring power to the opposition in two regional councils. SLFP politicians were not immediately available for comment on the Galle violence.

The court of appeal ruled Friday that the governors of the southern and northwestern province had acted illegally in appointing ruling party members as chief ministers of the two councils following provincial elections in May.

The combined opposition has a narrow lead of one seat in the 55-member southern provincial council and two in the 52-member northwestern council.

Following the court order, the governor of the northwestern province appointed opposition member G.M. Premachandra of the opposition Democratic United National Front (DUNF) as chief minister of his regional council.

Dodangoda is the third opposition chief minister in the seven provincial councils that have limited powers to set-up a regional police force, raise taxes and enact laws.

SLFP's Chandrika Kumaratunga was earlier appointed chief minister of the key western provincial council which covers the Sri Lankan capital.

58 LTTE Rebels Arrested After Bomb Find

BK1010113693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0902 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] COLOMBO, Oct 10 (AFP)—Police in the Sri Lankan capital have taken into custody 58 suspected Tamil rebels following the discovery of a powerful bomb by a teenager last week, the state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER reported Sunday.

The bomb, containing 3.5 kilograms (7.7 pounds) of RDX explosives and sewn to a pair of denim shorts, may have been assembled to kill an important person, the newspaper quoted senior police officers as saying.

Likely targets could have been several politicians or top government and defence officials who were on the hit list of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the newspaper said.

It said the 58 LTTE suspects arrested during a series of operations in the city were being interrogated to find out "whether the bomber is among them."

An unnamed 16-year-old boy found the bomb in a sealed aluminium box on the Modera beach here Thursday and informed his uncle, who in turn contacted police, the newspaper said.

Superintendent Lionel Gunatilleke of the Crime Detective Bureau said that the boy and his uncle had not interfered with two switches stitched to the shorts.

"Had they done so, the bomb would have been activated blowing them to pieces in a massive explosion," Gunatilleke was quoted as saying.

He said the explosives were to be worn by either a female or male suicide-bomber who may have panicked and thrown away the bomb due to a police operation Wednesday in the Modera area.

Police stepped up searches in Colombo amid fears of retaliatory strikes in the city by the LTTE to avenge a recent government offensive in the north that killed large numbers of Tiger guerrillas.

Suspected LTTE suicide-bombers used similar RDX explosives strapped around their waists to blow-up Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in May.

1,000 Tamils Make 2d Boat Crossing in North

BK1210064693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Colombo, Oct 12 (AFP)—Some 1,200 more Tamil civilians from Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula arrived in the mainland on a rebel-run ferry service via a prohibited waterway patrolled by the navy, travellers said Tuesday.

The illegal boat crossing late Monday was the second major trip undertaken by civilians via the Jaffna lagoon since the military a week ago concluded a major offensive against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

On Sunday, about 500 civilians travelled in some 40 boats under LTTE escort from Kilali on the LTTE-controlled peninsula to the rebel bastion of Paranthan on the mainland.

The military had claimed crippling the LTTE-operated Kilali ferry by destroying a flotilla of LTTE craft and two boat-landing points during the recent operation.

The travellers from Jaffna told reporters in the government-held Vavuniya town on the mainland that they undertook the latest trip in about 60 boats with hundreds more being denied the trip due to the shortage of craft.

They said that during the dangerous three-hour journey their boats managed to evade navy craft enforcing a ban on boat traffic.

Thousands of civilians in the north do not have free access to travel between the peninsula and mainland since all land and sea routes are blocked either by troops or LTTE guerrillas.

The civilians have, however, used the LTTE ferry via the lagoon despite the risk of being shot by the navy. Last October, the government declared the waterway a [word indistinct] zone to prevent smuggling of arms and ammunition by the LTTE.m

The LTTE is battling government troops in the northeast in their campaign to establish a separate state in the region for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils.

Prime Minister Departs for U.S., Cyprus

BK1210114093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe left the island for Washington early this morning. In Washington, the prime minister will attend a series of high-level bilateral discussions focusing on Sri Lanka to be held on the 19th of this month.

The prime minister will also attend the Commonwealth heads of states conference, which will be held from the 21st to the 25th of this month in Cyprus. Several ministers and the U.S. and Cypriot diplomats were present at the airport to bid farewell to the prime minister.

Agreements Signed for 88 Projects in 3 Months

BK0910122693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The Sri Lanka Board of Investment says agreements have been signed to launch 88 projects during the past three months. The total foreign investments would be 521 million rupees. These will generate employment avenues to 7,500 persons. Investments will be made by Korea, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, China, Germany, Belgium, and Hong Kong. The Board has granted approval for 92 projects during this period. The investments (?pledged) were in the region of 7,130 million rupees. Around 9,000 persons will be found jobs.